Netfabb Local Simulation

Examples Manual

Software Solutions for 3D Printing

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Introduction

This manual contains examples of using Netfabb Simulation to simulate additive manufacturing processes.

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page. The folder name corresponds with each example number.

Thermo-Mechanical Process Parameter File Generation

1.1 **Problem Description**

This example illustrates how to generate a thermo-mechanical Process Parameter file, known as a PRM file. A PRM simulation models a small amount of material to determine how a certain material will thermo-mechanically respond to a certain set of processing parameters. This information gets encoded in the PRM file, which is read by subsequent part-level analyses for builds using the same material and processing parameters.

Instructions on how to produce a thermal prm file to investigate lack of fusion and hotspot behavior are given in Example 14.

This example will also guide the user through how to produce post-process time-temperature, and time-displacement data files for selected points, which can be used to plot thermal or displacement results.

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

In order to run Part-Level Powder-Bed analysis in Netfabb Simulation , a process parameter (.prm) file must first be generated. The .prm file links the small scale moving-source analysis to the full Part-Level analysis. This is illustrated in Figure 1.1.

Here, a process parameter file is generated for Inconel 625 using the following set of parameters:

- Power: 150 W
- Laser spot size: 0.15 mm
- Scan speed: 600 mm/s
- Layer thickness: 0.04 mm
- Hatch spacing: 0.15 mm
- Recoater time: 20 s
- Initial angle rotation: 11.5 degrees
- Interlayer hatch angle rotation: 67 degrees



Figure 1.1: Relationship between the fine scale and Part-Level analyses.

The parameters are entered into the *LSRP card. The *GTAB card enables PRM file output and specifies the name of the process parameter file. The flow of the analysis is shown in Figure 1.2.



Figure 1.2: Flowchart for generating .prm files.

A time incremental thermal analysis is performed first to compute the temperature history of the part followed by a time incremental mechanical analysis. The .prm file is filed out for several different section thicknesses and temperatures. The thickness of a section is controlled by using the 10th input of the *LSRP card and the temperature is controlled by using the *INIT card. Once the full table is filled out in the .prm file, the file can be input along with geometric information for the Part-Level analysis as illustrated in Figure 1.3. Part-Level analyses are demonstrated in later examples in this manual.



Figure 1.3: Flow chart from fine scale to part scale thermo-mechanical simulations

1.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

To run the models, from a command line run:

\$ prm_gen 01_thermal.in 01_mechanical.in > prmgen.out

Users can check the progress of the simulation by viewing the log file, which is recorded to the prmgen.out file.

This will run each combination of temperature and thickness in order

1.3 Results

The result of the analysis will be a single process parameter (.prm) file. The file will be read into succeeding Powder-Bed Part-Level analyses.

1.4 Post processing

A tool for producing temporal results, timex, is included in the installation. This program uses an input text file with the following entries:

```
*INPU
a1 = input-file-name (without *.in extension)
*PNTS
i1 = Number of points to probe
r11, r12, r13 = X, Y, Z coordinates, point 1
r21, r22, r23 = X, Y, Z coordinates, point 2
...
```

Two times input files are included, times-temp.txt and times-disp.txt, which probe the thermal and mechanical results at several locations, respectively.

To produce a temperature history for selected points, from the command run:

\$ timex timex-temp.txt

The resulting comma separated text file is called timex_prmgen_thermal.txt. It has the format: Time (s), Temp at Point 1, Temp at Point 2, Temp at Point 3, ...

View the timex_prmgen_thermal.txt file in the text editor of your choice. Note that for locations which are in the deposition region, temperatures are 0 until the associated element has been activated. This data is easy to plot in any spreadsheet software or programming environment.

To produce a displacement history for selected points, from the command run:

\$ timex timex-disp.txt

The resulting comma separated text file is called timex_prmgen_mechanical.txt. It has the format: Time (s), Point 1 Displacement Magnitude, Point 1 X Displacement, Point 1 Y Displacement, Point 1 Z Displacement, Point 2

Open up the timex_prmgen_mechanical.txt file. Note similarly to the thermal results, all displacements are set to 0 before the element has been activated.

Part Scale Modeling

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

2.1 Problem Description

A generic geometry of Inconel[®]625 is built in a powder bed system and simulated. The layer height is 0.04 mm. The part geometry is imported in the analysis through an STL file, and it is automatically meshed within Netfabb Simulation . The substrate is assumed to be 24 mm thick. The actual build plate is planned to have 5 similar geometries on it. Here, a simplified analysis is performed on just 1 of the geometries. The *PBDL card is used to add the dwell time for the deposition of the geometries that are not included in the analysis. The *PBIS card insulates the side of the small substrate in the analysis, simulating the effect of having other builds on the build plate nearby. The *PBSS card constrains the sides of the small substrate in the analysis, mimicking the effect of being attached to the larger build plate. The build plate has an initial temperature of 100°C, which is modeled using *INIT. The resulting mesh is illustrated in Figure 2.1.

A time incremental thermal analysis is performed first to compute the temperature history of the part. Layers are activated in groups, and additional time increments are used to model heat conduction into the part. The thermal analysis includes only the part and substrate. Heat loss into the powder is modeled as convection with a value of 25.d-6 W/((mm²)°C) using the *CONV option.

A time incremental mechanical analysis is performed after the thermal analysis is completed. Similarly to the thermal analysis, layers are activated in groups using *PBPA and the computed temperature distribution from the mechanical analysis is used to compute deformation due to the thermal expansion. The input process parameter file (Inconel625_generic.prm) was generated in Example 1 of this manual.

After the thermo-mechanical simulation has been completed, the distort_stl post-processing program will be used to produced both a warped STL which shows the predicted displacements and a compensated STL, which if printed, should mitigate much of the distortion of the original geometry, getting the part closer to the desired shape.



Figure 2.1: Auto-generated finite element mesh

2.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

2.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the model, from a command line run:

```
$ pan -b 02_thermal
```

The **-b** option runs the solver in background mode, which automatically overwrites any previous results, and directs output to a an output file of the format **input-file-name.out**.

The analysis progress is written on file $\texttt{O2_thermal.out}.$ To check progress in a linux environment run:

\$ tail 02_thermal.out

To check progress in a windows command line environment run:

\$ type 02_thermal.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 02_thermal.out should be similar to the following:

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 34 = 00:00:00.43, since start = 00:00:14.12
inc =
            35 time = 4249.1602
                                        iter =
                                                  1 \text{ eps} = 0.23990\text{E}+03
             35 \text{ time} = 4249.1602
                                                 2 \text{ eps} = 0.41748\text{E}-12
 inc =
                                        iter =
Finished writing file results\02_thermal_35.case
                                        4249.16015625000
Writing record:
                            2, time:
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 35 = 00:00:00.25, since start = 00:00:14.37
Layer end
Mesh preview volume =
                          761.06250000000
                          761.06250000000
Activated volume
                     =
Activated percentage =
                          100.00000000000
Finished writing file .\02_thermal.case
Analysis completed
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:06.31
CPU wall = 00:00:14.43
CPU total = 00:00:29.01
Peak RAM used for this process = 90,716 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
Actual CPU times will differ from system to system.
```

2.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the analysis from the command line:

```
$ pan -b 02_mechanical
```

The analysis progress is written on file 02_mechanical.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail 02_mechanical.out

or in Windows:

\$ type 02_mechanical.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 02_mechanical.out should be similar to the following:

```
-----
Substrate removal time increment
_____
inc =
          36 time = 6249.1602
                                 iter = 1 \text{ eps} = 0.53336\text{E}+04
inc = 36 time = 6249.1602
                                 iter = 2 eps = 0.10599E-08
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement
                        = 3.346287E-01
Optimized RMS displacement =
                                  3.179544E-01
Number of optimization iterations =
                                      250
Rotation matrix =
  1.000000E+000 -9.670484E-006 -1.151088E-007
  9.670483E-006 1.000000E+000
                              -2.613098E-006
  1.151341E-007 2.613097E-006
                              1.000000E+000
Translation = -2.369873E-005 1.993509E-004 1.043245E-001
Finished writing file results\02_mechanical_36_f.case
Finished writing file results\02_mechanical_36.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 36 = 00:00:00.81, since start = 00:00:23.51
Layer end
 -----
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                           72
Mesh preview volume = 761.06250000000
Activated volume = 761.06250000000
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Finished writing file .\02_mechanical_f.case
Finished writing file .02_mechanical.case
Analysis completed
```

```
CPU wall for substrate removal = 00:00:00.86
CPU wall = 00:00:23.57
CPU total = 00:01:03.33
```

Peak RAM used for this process = 337,664 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ.

2.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in Paraview or the Simulation Utility for Netfabb. Figures 2.2 shows the computed final distortion after substrate release.

2.4 Producing distorted and compensated STL files from the simulation results

After the thermo-mechanical simulation is completed, the mechanical results can be used to output warped and compensated STL files. Warped STLs can be used for post-process analysis, to ensure assembly fit or other dimensional checks. To produce a warped STL, use the included program distort_stl.

\$ distort_stl warp.txt

By default the program uses the distortion results after cool down but before removing the part from the build plate. The resulting distorted STL, 02_mechanical_warp.STL, is shown in Figure 2.3.

A compensated STL takes the prediction distortion results, inverts them, and applies them to the original geometry. This produces a geometry which should distort *into* the desired shape. To produce the compensated geometry, use the distort_stl program again:

\$ distort_stl comp.txt

The resulting compensated STL, 02_mechanical_compensated.STL, is shown in Figure 2.4.



Figure 2.2: Final distortion.







Figure 2.4: Compensated STL

Advanced Part Scale Modeling

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

3.1 **Problem Description**

For this example showcasing some advanced part-scale modeling option, a sample geometry simulates the powder bed construction of an Inconel[®]625 part. The layer height is 0.04mm. The part geometry is imported in the analysis through an STL file, and it is automatically meshed within Netfabb Simulation . The buildplate is modeled to be 25mm thick and 60mm x 60mm in area as defined in the *SBDM option. The substrate is fixed to a circular rod defined using the *FIXC card. A controlled temperature of 200°C is applied to the build plate using *PBSH. The resulting mesh is illustrated in

Figures 3.1.

A time incremental thermal analysis is performed first to compute the temperature history of the part. Layers are activated in groups using *PBPA, and additional time increments are used to model heat conduction into the part. The thermal analysis includes only the part and substrate. Heat loss into the powder is modeled as convection with a value of 25.d-6 W/((mm²)°C) using *CONV.

A time incremental mechanical analysis is performed after the thermal analysis is completed. Similarly to the thermal analysis, layers are activated in groups and the computed temperature distribution from the mechanical analysis is used to compute deformation due to the thermal expansion. The input process parameter file (Inconel625_generic.prm) was generated in Example 1 of this manual. The *WRTU option is used to output two point cloud files, before and after removal of the part from the build plate.

3.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

3.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the model, from a command line run:

```
$ pan -b 03_thermal
```

The analysis progress is written on file 03_thermal.out. To check progress run:

```
$ tail 03_thermal.out
```



Figure 3.1: The Finite Element Mesh

or in Windows systems:

\$ type 03_thermal.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file O3_thermal.out should be similar to the following:

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 46 = 00:00:01.68, since start = 00:00:36.78
 inc =
             47 time =
                          14725.277
                                         iter =
                                                  1 \text{ eps} = 0.35216\text{E}+03
             47 time =
 inc =
                          14725.277
                                         iter =
                                                  2 \text{ eps} = 0.64861\text{E}-12
Finished writing file results\03_thermal_47.case
Writing record:
                            2, time:
                                         14725.2769198732
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 47 = 00:00:00.58, since start = 00:00:37.37
Layer end
Mesh preview volume =
                           6800.88614359419
Activated volume
                      =
                           6800.88614359419
Activated percentage =
                          100.0000000000000
Finished writing file .\03_thermal.case
Analysis completed
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:24.45
CPU wall = 00:00:37.42
CPU total = 00:01:44.08
Peak RAM used for this process = 188,296 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
Actual CPU times will differ.
```

3.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b 03_mechanical

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 03_mechanical.out should be similar to the following:

Substrate removal time increment

inc = 49 time = 24725.277 iter = 1 eps = 0.49409E+04 inc = 49 time = 24725.277 iter = 2 eps = 0.51792E-09

```
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement = 2.230159E-01
Optimized RMS displacement = 1.413638E-01
Number of optimization iterations =
                                         241
Rotation matrix =
  1.000000E+000 4.614382E-005 1.689121E-004
 -4.624778E-005 9.999998E-001 6.154971E-004
 -1.688836E-004 -6.155049E-004 9.999998E-001
Translation = -6.480539E-002 -7.594077E-002 1.205890E-001
Finished writing file results\03_mechanical_49_f.case
Finished writing file results\03_mechanical_49.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 49 = 00:00:02.15, since start = 00:00:59.07
Layer end
_____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                              97
Mesh preview volume = 6800.88614359419
Activated volume = 6800.88614359419
Activated percentage = 100.00000000000
Finished writing file .\03_mechanical_f.case
Finished writing file .\03_mechanical.case
Analysis completed
******
  1 Warning
******
CPU wall for substrate removal = 00:00:02.22
CPU wall = 00:00:59.14
CPU total = 00:03:12.24
Peak RAM used for this process = 748,136 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Actual CPU times will differ.

3.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in Paraview or the Simulation Utility for Netfabb. Figure 3.2 shows the computed final distortion before the part is removed from the substrate.



Figure 3.2: Final distortion results

There are two point cloud files produced during the mechanical simulation 03_mechanical_1.wrtu and 03_mechanical_2.wrtu, which are from the increments right before and after removal of the part from the build plate, respectively, for the nodes of the built component. These files have the format: [X, Y, Z, X displacement, Y displacement, Z displacement] with all the units in mm. A visualization of the X,Y,Z point cloud is shown in Figure 3.3.



Figure 3.3: Point cloud file visualization

Moving adaptive refinement

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

4.1 **Problem Description**

This is an example of moving adaptive refinement and coarsening within a layer. Only thermal analyses can be performed with this option.

A moving heat source of 150 W and 600 mm/s is applied on the top surface of a 4mm x 4mm x 12.7mm substrate made of Inconel[®]718. A surface convection of 10.d-6 W/((mm²)-degC) is applied on the top surface and the all other faces are insulated. The *ADPM card is used to control the acceptable temperature gradients across an element for coarsening. Increasing this number can result in artificial energy being added into the system. The mesh and laser path are automatically generated using Netfabb Simulation .

4.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

4.2.1 Thermal Analysis

From a command line run:

\$ pan -b 04_thermal

The analysis progress is written on file 04_thermal.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail 04_thermal.out

or in Windows:

\$ type 04_thermal.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 04_thermal.out should be similar to the following:

```
Starting auxspar
Number of no zeros nsymmetric =7172
Sparse preprocessing complete
```

inc = 480.00000 1877 time = iter = 1 eps = 0.54104E-03 inc = 1877 time = 480.00000 2 eps = 0.72573E-08 iter = Finished writing file results\04_thermal_1877.case Increment end CPU wall for increment 1877 = 00:00:00.01, since start = 00:04:29.38 Finished writing file $.\04$ -thermal.case Analysis completed CPU wall = 00:04:29.43CPU total = 00:17:13.05

Peak RAM used for this process = 65,352 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

4.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in Paraview or Simulation Utility for Netfabb. The results at 3 different time steps at the beginning, middle, and end of the simulation are shown in Figure 4.1



Figure 4.1: Temperatures at selected time increments.

Directed Energy Deposition

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

5.1 **Problem Description**

This example simulates the Directed Energy Deposition (DED) build of a two bead wide, fifty layer high Ti-6Al-4V wall onto a Ti-6Al-4V substrate using the Optomec[®]LENS[®] system. The dimensions of the part are shown in Figure 5.1. For each layer, the first bead is deposited along the +x direction, then the second bead is deposited in the -x direction. The radius of the melt pool is 1 mm, its power is 450 W, and the translation speed is 10 mm/s. The hatch spacing between the two beads is 2 mm. The ambient temperature during the process is 30.5°C. The substrate is constrained as simply supported. The thermal and mechanical response of this process is to be calculated using Netfabb Simulation with adaptive meshing. The mesh, shown in Figure 5.2 is created automatically using the *AUTM and *SBXY cards. *OSIG is used to designate the writing of Cauchy Stress Results.

5.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

5.2.1 Thermal Analysis

In the 05 directory, use a text editor to create the files named 05_thermal.in, 05_mechanical.in and fin_path.lsr. Run the analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b 05_thermal

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 05_thermal.out should be similar to the following:

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 4149 = 00:00:00.16, since start = 00:16:36.69
 inc =
            4150 \text{ time} =
                            500.00000
                                            iter =
                                                      1 eps =
                                                                 0.46419E+01
            4150 \text{ time} =
                                                                 0.14182E+01
 inc =
                            500.00000
                                            iter =
                                                      2 eps =
 inc =
            4150 \text{ time} =
                            500.00000
                                                      3 eps =
                                                                 0.73320E-01
                                            iter =
            4150 \text{ time} =
                            500.00000
                                                                 0.19888E-03
 inc =
                                            iter =
                                                      4 eps =
Finished writing file results\05_thermal_4150.case
```



Figure 5.1: Illustration of the substrate, deposition, their dimensions in mm, the laser path (red arrows), and the coordinate system (not to scale).

5.2.2 Mechanical Analysis

Run the analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b 05_mechanical

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 05_mechanical.out should be similar to the following:

```
CPU wall for increment 4284 = 00:00:00.27, since start = 00:34:13.42
inc =
      4285 time = 500.00000 iter = 1 eps = 0.70089E+05
        4285 time = 500.00000
                                iter = 2 eps = 0.42054E+05
inc =
        4285 time = 500.00000
                                iter = 3 eps = 0.49331E-09
inc =
Finished writing file results \05_mechanical_4285.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 4285 = 00:00:00.36, since start = 00:34:13.78
Layer end
   _____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                        23916
Finished writing file .\05_mechanical.case
Analysis completed
******
  1 Warning
*******
CPU wall = 00:34:14.20
CPU total = 02:08:13.17
Peak RAM used for this process = 129,260 kB
```

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation



Figure 5.2: LENS part discretized by 8-node linear hexahedral elements. Dummy boundary conditions, materials, and properties must also be applied.

5.3 Results

The results can be viewed in Simulation Utility for Netfabb or Paraview by importing the .case files. Thermal results during deposition are shown at two different increments in Figure 5.3. Post process distortion and a sample stress result is shown in Figure 5.4.





(a) Increment 1000





(a) Post Process distortion results, warped 1X



Part Scale Modeling with Buildplate Release

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

6.1 Problem Description

A flat plate geometry of Inconel[®]718is built in a powder bed system and simulated. The layer height is .04mm. The part geometry is imported in the analysis through an STL file, and it is automatically meshed within Netfabb Simulation . The buildplate is modeled to be 12.7mm thick using *DDM!. The time to deposit layers is calculated using the *PBDL card. The bottom of the build plate is fixed using the *FSUB card. The *FSUB card will also simulate the release of the buildplate from the machine after the deposition process is complete, but before the part is removed from the buildplate. The resulting mesh is illustrated in Figures 6.1.



Figure 6.1: Auto-generated voxel mesh.

A time incremental thermal analysis is performed first to compute the temperature history of the part. Layers are activated in groups using *PBPA, and additional time increments are used to model heat conduction into the part. The thermal analysis includes only the part and substrate. Heat loss into the powder is modeled as convection with a value of 25.d-6 W/((mm²)°C) using *CONV.

A time incremental mechanical analysis is performed after the thermal analysis is completed. Similarly to the thermal analysis, layers are activated in groups and the computed temperature distribution from the mechanical analysis is used to compute deformation due to the thermal expansion.

6.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

6.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the model in batch mode, on a windows machine run from the command line:

\$ pan -q 06_win

If the system is linux, from the terminal run:

\$ pan -q 06_linux

These files are identical in essence, but linux and windows do not have interchangeable text file formats.

This will run the input files in the .que file in series. The input files must be in the same folder as the .que file. This allows users to easily simulate large batches of jobs from the command line.

The thermal analysis progress is written on file 06_thermal.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail 06_thermal.out

or in Windows systems:

\$ type 06_thermal.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 06_thermal.out should be similar to the following:

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 14 = 00:00:02.18, since start = 00:01:08.40
 inc =
             15 \text{ time} =
                          57672.801
                                         iter =
                                                  1 eps =
                                                           0.10940E+02
                          57672.801
 inc =
             15 time =
                                         iter =
                                                  2 eps =
                                                           0.13226E-11
Finished writing file results\06_thermal_15.case
Writing record:
                            3. time:
                                        57672.8014167935
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 15 = 00:00:02.19, since start = 00:01:10.60
Layer end
Mesh preview volume
                     =
                           190987.524817100
Activated volume
                           190987.524817100
                     =
Activated percentage =
                           100.00000000000
Finished writing file .\06_thermal.case
Analysis completed
```
6.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

After the thermal analysis completes, the que file with automatically run the mechanical analysis immediately afterwards.

After the mechanical analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file O6_mechanical.out should be similar to the following:

```
_____
Substrate removal time increment
-----
inc =
          17 time = 157672.80
                                 iter =
                                         1 \text{ eps} = 0.21516E+06
inc = 17 time = 157672.80
                                 iter =
                                        2 \text{ eps} = 0.15258E-07
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement
                            =
                                 1.873007E+00
Optimized RMS displacement
                            =
                                  1.170165E+00
Number of optimization iterations =
                                      278
Rotation matrix =
  9.999818E-001 2.828207E-004 -6.022653E-003
 -2.776064E-004 9.999996E-001 8.665997E-004
  6.022895E-003 -8.649120E-004 9.999815E-001
Translation =
             1.182008E-001 -6.113179E-002 -6.271939E-001
Finished writing file results \06_mechanical_17_f.case
Finished writing file results\06_mechanical_17.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 17 = 00:00:10.43, since start = 00:02:44.03
Layer end
   ------
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                           29
Mesh preview volume = 190987.524817100
Activated volume = 190987.524817100
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
```

```
Finished writing file .\06_mechanical_f.case Finished writing file .\06_mechanical.case
```

Analysis completed

CPU wall for substrate removal = 00:00:10.48 CPU wall = 00:02:44.09 CPU total = 00:08:46.61

```
Peak RAM used for this process = 3,202,404 kB
```

```
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

6.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in Simulation Utility for Netfabb or Paraview.

Figures 6.2 shows the computed final distortion before the buildplate is removed from the machine, after the buildplate is removed from the machine, and after the part is removed from the buildplate.



(a) After deposition and before build plate removal from the machine

(b) After buildplate removal from the machine



(c) After part removal from the build plate

Figure 6.2: Distortion [mm] (5x magnification).

Example 7

Part Scale Modeling with CLI Support Structures

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

7.1 Problem Description

An Inconel[®] 718 bracket geometry with support structures is built in a powder bed system. The layer height is 0.04mm. The part geometry is imported in the analysis through an STL file, the support structure is imported from an CLI file, and both are automatically meshed within Netfabb Simulation . The buildplate is modeled to be 25.4 mm thick using *DDM!. The time to deposit layers is calculated using the *PBDL card. The bottom of the build plate is fixed using the *FSUB card. The *FSUB card will also simulate the release of the buildplate from the machine after the deposition process is complete, but before the part is removed from the buildplate. The mesh, shown with and without the support elements, is shown in Figures 7.1.



Figure 7.1: Bracket with and without supports.

A time incremental thermal analysis is performed first to compute the temperature history of the part. Layers are activated in groups using *PBPA, and additional time increments are used to model heat conduction into the part. The thermal analysis includes only the part and substrate.

Heat loss into the powder is modeled as convection with a value of 25.d-6 W/((mm²) $^{\circ}$ C) using *CONV.

A time incremental mechanical analysis is performed after the thermal analysis is completed. Similarly to the thermal analysis, layers are activated in groups and the computed temperature distribution from the mechanical analysis is used to compute deformation due to the thermal expansion. These simulations have three additional post-process simulation increments, first Netfabb Simulation simulates the release of the buildplate from the machine, then the removal of the build from the buildplate, and finally the removal of the support structure material from the final build.

Two variations of the mechanical analysis is performed, a basic analysis (07_mechanical1.in), and an advanced analysis which simulates failure at the support-build interface (07_mechanical2.in).

7.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

7.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the model, from a command line run:

```
$ pan -b 07_thermal
```

The analysis progress is written on file 07_thermal.out. To check progress run:

```
$ tail 07_thermal.out
```

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 07_thermal.out should be similar to the following:

```
inc =
            29 time =
                       110026.96
                                             1 \text{ eps} =
                                                     0.12597E+04
                                    iter =
inc =
            29 time =
                       110026.96
                                    iter =
                                             2 eps =
                                                     0.11532E-11
Finished writing file results \ 07_thermal_29.case
Writing record:
                         2, time:
                                    110026.958120637
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 29 = 00:00:00.73, since start = 00:00:39.46
Layer end
Mesh preview volume =
                        110852.789200311
Activated volume
                        110852.789200311
                   =
Activated percentage =
                        100.00000000000
Finished writing file .\07_thermal.case
Analysis completed
*******************************
  1 Warning
*******
*******
  1 Critical warning
*****
```

```
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:21.41
CPU wall = 00:00:39.51
CPU total = 00:01:37.65
```

Peak RAM used for this process = 330,204 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ. The Warning indicates the simulation time needed to be adjusted. The Critical Warning informs users that the CLI type support structures have been deprecated, and that STL type supports are suggested.

7.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the first mechanical analysis from the command line:

```
$ pan -b 07_mechanical1
```

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 07_mechanical1.out should be similar to the following:

The warnings here are the same as given in the thermal log file.

Actual CPU times will differ. The warnings here are the same as given in the thermal log file. Run the second mechanical analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b 07_mechanical2

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 07_mechanical2.out should be similar to the following:

_____ Support structure removal time increment _____ 260026.96 inc = 32 time = iter = 1 eps = 0.29774E+04iter = 2 eps = 0.23414E-08 inc = 32 time =260026.96 Optimizing rigid body motion... Initial RMS displacement = 4.536035E-01 = Optimized RMS displacement 3.984455E-01 Number of optimization iterations = 255 Rotation matrix = 9.999940E-01 -7.913967E-05 3.466786E-03 7.063056E-05 9.999970E-01 2.454520E-03 -3.466970E-03 -2.454260E-03 9.999910E-01 Translation = -8.765369E-02 -4.793811E-02 -4.500820E-01

Finished writing file results\07_mechanical2_32_f.case Finished writing file results\07_mechanical2_32.case

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 32 = 00:00:02.86, since start = 00:01:21.50
Layer end
_____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                          63
Mesh preview volume = 110852.789200311
Activated volume = 110852.789200311
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Signal tag 6DB7
*** CRITICAL WARNING: 2
Recoater Interference Detected at 3 layer groups. Minimum clearance of -22.5280761718771 at
        24.00000000000 mm.
height
Finished writing file .\07_mechanical2_f.case
Finished writing file .\07_mechanical2.case
Analysis completed
******
  24 Warnings
*******
*******
  2 Critical warnings
******
CPU wall for support removal = 00:00:02.91
CPU wall = 00:01:21.56
CPU total = 00:04:31.89
Peak RAM used for this process = 1,273,032 kB
```

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

The warnings from the previous simulations are shown here as well, in addition to a Recoater Interference Critical Warning, along with several Recoater Interference Warnings and numerous Support structure failure warnings.

7.3 Results

There are an additional log file created during simulation file_name_recoater.txt. Below are the results seen in the 07_mechanical1_recoater.txt:

op z undeformed	coord (mm)				
1.172554E+04	1	77.742	4.008903E+00	4.040000E+00	4.000000E+00
2.389416E+04	2	58.549	8.016581E+00	8.040000E+00	8.000000E+00
3.607386E+04	3	47.107	1.202116E+01	1.204000E+01	1.200000E+01
4.815440E+04	4	70.059	1.601198E+01	1.604000E+01	1.600000E+01
6.195965E+04	5	64.166	2.001433E+01	2.004000E+01	2.000000E+01
7.656102E+04	6	59.579	2.401617E+01	2.404000E+01	2.400000E+01
9.112844E+04	7	59.302	2.801628E+01	2.804000E+01	2.800000E+01
1.035748E+05	8	78.580	3.200857E+01	3.204000E+01	3.200000E+01
1.092742E+05	9	79.286	3.600829E+01	3.604000E+01	3.600000E+01

time (s), layer group, recoater clearance (%), top z deformed coord (mm), recoater coord (mm), top z undeformed coord (mm)

Now are the results from the 07_mechanical1_recoater.txt file:

time (s), layer group,	recoater	clearance (%), top z defo	rmed coord (mm), recoater coord (mm)
top z undeformed coord	(mm)					
1.172554E+04	1	77.742	4.008903E+00	4.040000E+00	4.000000E+00	
2.389416E+04	2	58.725	8.016510E+00	8.040000E+00	8.00000E+00	
3.607386E+04	3	47.560	1.202098E+01	1.204000E+01	1.200000E+01	
4.815440E+04	4	69.893	1.601204E+01	1.604000E+01	1.600000E+01	
6.195965E+04	5	0.675	2.003973E+01	2.004000E+01	2.00000E+01	
7.656102E+04	6	-22.528	2.404901E+01	2.404000E+01	2.400000E+01	
9.112844E+04	7	11.342	2.803546E+01	2.804000E+01	2.800000E+01	
1.035748E+05	8	77.417	3.200903E+01	3.204000E+01	3.200000E+01	
1.092742E+05	9	78.456	3.600862E+01	3.604000E+01	3.60000E+01	

Note that when support structure failure is taken into account, the likelihood of a catastrophic recoater interference event becomes very high.

There is another feature that enhances the user's ability to investigate support structure failure, an output called Structure Type, which may be viewed in post processing software. This result is assigns an integer value to each element, indicating what kind of structure the element is. The values, ranging from 0-5, are as follows:

- 0 Build plate
- 1 Powder
- 2 Component
- 3 Homogenized component
- 4 Support structure
- 5 Failed support structure

Figures 7.2 shows the results for cases 07_mechanical1 and 07_mechanical2 at the 3rd to the last increment, while the part and supports are still attached to the build plate. The results have been warped by displacements which are magnified 5x to better show the effect of failed elements.

For case 07_mechanical1, seen in Figure 7.2(a), elements only have values 0-4, and all support structures are coded as type 4, unfailed supports. This is as expected as this analysis does not have the support structure card *UTSR enabled. For case 07_mechanical2, shown in Figure 7.2(b), there are numerous failed supports, as indicated in the simulation log. Note how the failed elements are stretched. This occurs because the failed elements no longer have any strength to resist deformation.



Figure 7.2: Structure type results

Now examine and compare the displacement results from the two mechanical cases. Figures 7.3 depicts the distortion of the two cases while the supports and component are attached to the build plate, again warped by a 5x magnification factor.

Figures 7.3 shows the computed final distortion from the support structure failure analysis using *UTSR (07_mechanical2.in) after the part is removed from the buildplate, and after the support material has been removed. Note the increase of distortion and elongation of failed elements. Support structure failure and the resulting displacement can be mitigated by increasing the density of the support structure, changing the orientation of parts to avoid or reduce overhangs, or changes to the build geometry itself.



Figure 7.3: Distortion [mm] (10x magnification) of the two mechanical cases.

Example 8

Powder Bed Moving Source Modeling with Custom Toolpaths

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

8.1 Problem Description

A set of 4 Inconel[®] 718 analyses are included in this example which describe the modeling of powder bed tracks using the moving source method. The custom build geometry is defined by the laser path file thft_line1.1sr which is called by the *LSRF card. The example laser path includes 3 deposition tracks 5 mm long and 0.04 mm high. The substrate thickness is defined by the second value in the DDM! card and the substrate X and Y is extended 10 mm in all 4 planar directions from the bounding box defined by the build geometry.

The 4 thermal analyses which comprise this example which are:

- t.in Simulates substrate heating using a static autogenerated mesh
- tadpm.in Simulates substrate heat using a moving-adaptive autogenerated mesh
- tdirect.in Simulates powder sintering using a static autogenerated mesh
- tddmp.in Simulates powder sintering using a static autogenerated mesh and active powder elements outside of the 3 deposition tracks

8.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

8.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the t.in model, from a command line run:

\$ pan -b t

The analysis progress is written on file t.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail t.out

or in Windows run:

\$ type t.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file t.out should be similar to the following:

CPU wall = 00:05:33.04 CPU total = 00:18:16.82

Peak RAM used for this process = 536,444 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ. To run the tadpm.in model, from a command line run:

\$ pan -b tadpm

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file tadpm.out should be similar to the following:

Peak RAM used for this process = 119,360 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ. To run the tdirect in model, from a command line run:

\$ pan -b tdirect

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file tdirect.out should be similar to the following:

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 247 = 00:00:00.14, since start = 00:04:46.39
Layer end
Finished writing file .\ tdirect.case
```

Analysis completed

CPU wall = 00:04:46.44 CPU total = 00:18:21.07

Peak RAM used for this process = 137,964 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ. To run the tddmp.in model, from a command line run:

\$ pan -b tddmp

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file tddmp.out should be similar to the following:

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 244 = 00:00:00.25, since start = 00:08:49.24
Layer end
Finished writing file .\ tddmp.case
```

Analysis completed

```
CPU wall = 00:08:49.60
CPU total = 00:34:24.76
Peak RAM used for this process = 196,736 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
Actual CPU times will differ.
```

8.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in the Simulation Utility for Netfabb or Paraview. Figures 8.1 shows the results of each of the 2 substrate thermal simulations and Figures 8.2 shows the results of each of the 2 powder sintering thermal simulations, each during the simulation of the second laser scan.



Figure 8.1: Thermal simulation of substrate heating

The substrate heating simulations both model the thermal behavior during moving heat source based pre-heating. Using the fixed autogenerated mesh, shown in Figure 8.1(a) produces a fine mesh in the regions of heating. The adaptive mesh shows only fine mesh around the heat source at the individual time increment in Figure 8.1(b).

Powder sintering without modeling the powder is shown in Figure 8.2(a) while the simulation including the powder is shown in Figure 8.2(b).

EXAMPLE 8. POWDER BED MOVING SOURCE MODELING WITH CUSTOM TOOLPATHS50



(a) tdirect.in

(b) tddmp.in

Figure 8.2: Thermal simulation of powder sintering

Example 9

Powder Bed Part Level Plasticity

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

9.1 Problem Description

A generic geometry of Inconel[®]625 is built in a powder bed system and simulated. The layer height is 0.04mm. The part geometry is imported in the analysis through an STL file, and it is automatically meshed by the Netfabb Simulation solver. The substrate is assumed to be 38.1mm thick. The resulting mesh is illustrated in Figures 9.1.



Figure 9.1: Autogenerated finite element mesh

A time incremental thermal analysis is performed first to compute the temperature history of the part. Layers are activated in groups, and additional time increments are used to model heat conduction into the part. The thermal analysis includes only the part and substrate. Heat loss into the powder is modeled as convection with a value of 25.d-6 W/((mm²)°C) using the *CONV option.

Two time incremental mechanical analyses are performed after the thermal analysis is completed, one with qualitative stresses, one with quantitative stresses. Similarly to the thermal analysis, layers are activated in groups using *PBPA and the computed temperature distribution from the mechanical analysis is used to compute deformation due to the thermal expansion. The source PRM file is for Inconel 625, using generic processing parameters.

9.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

9.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the model, from a command line run:

```
$ pan -b 09_thermal
```

The analysis progress is written on file 09_thermal.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail 09_thermal.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 09_thermal.out should be similar to the following:

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 25 = 00:00:01.06, since start = 00:00:19.66
inc =
             26 time =
                          1982.8118
                                        iter =
                                                  1 \text{ eps} = 0.14964\text{E}+03
inc =
             26 time =
                          1982.8118
                                        iter =
                                                  2 \text{ eps} = 0.61878E-12
Finished writing file results\09_thermal_26.case
Writing record:
                            2, time:
                                        1982.81176470588
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 26 = 00:00:00.42, since start = 00:00:20.08
Layer end
Mesh preview volume =
                           791.56000000000
Activated volume
                     =
                           791.56000000000
Activated percentage =
                          100.0000000000000
Finished writing file .\09_thermal.case
Analysis completed
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:09.53
CPU wall = 00:00:20.14
CPU total = 00:00:44.66
Peak RAM used for this process = 146,772 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Actual CPU times will differ.

9.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the first analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b 09_mechanical

The analysis progress is written on file 09_mechanical.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail 09_mechanical.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file <code>09_mechanical.out</code> should be similar to the following:

_____ Substrate removal time increment _____ inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 1 eps = 0.38806E+04 inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 2 eps = 0.23988E-08 Optimizing rigid body motion... Initial RMS displacement = 5.194422E-01 Optimized RMS displacement = 5.140893E-01 Number of optimization iterations = 207 Rotation matrix = 1.000000E+000 6.764603E-006 6.375272E-007 -6.764607E-0061.000000E+0007.124815E-006-6.374790E-007-7.124820E-0061.000000E+000 Translation = 1.117124E-004 -1.287760E-004 7.433468E-002 Finished writing file results 09_mechanical_28_f.case Finished writing file results\09_mechanical_28.case Increment end CPU wall for increment 28 = 00:00:01.26, since start = 00:00:30.80 Layer end _____ Total number of equilibrium iterations: 56 Mesh preview volume = 791.56000000000 Activated volume = 791.56000000000 Activated percentage = 100.00000000000 Signal tag 3743 *** CRITICAL WARNING: 2 Code 1041 Recoater interference detected at four layer groups. Minimum clearance of 55.819 percent at he Finished writing file .\09_mechanical_f.case Finished writing file .\09_mechanical.case

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times may differ. Run the second analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b 09_mechanical_ppla

The analysis progress is written on file 09_mechanical_ppla.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail 09_mechanical_ppla.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 09_mechanical_ppla.out should be similar to the following:

```
_____
*COOL time increment
_____
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:17.70
HTOR is being set to zero***
inc =
         27 time = 51982.812 iter = 1 eps = 0.23906E+05
          27 time = 51982.812
inc =
                                iter = 2 eps = 0.88357E-09
Finished writing file results\09_mechanical_ppla_27.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 27 = 00:00:01.20, since start = 00:00:31.04
Layer end
CPU wall for cooldown = 00:00:01.20
-----
Plasticity iteration #
                            1
```

-----inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 1 eps = 0.42034E+04 inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 2 eps = 0.14577E+04 Inc =28 time =101982.81iter =3 eps =0.75146E+03inc =28 time =101982.81iter =4 eps =0.42586E+03inc =28 time =101982.81iter =5 eps =0.59093E+03 Signal tag 5768 *** CRITICAL WARNING: 2 Code 1028 Residual is increasing. Reducing time step. Switching plasticity algorithm _____ Plasticity step CPU wall for plasticity = 00:00:03.69 -----Plasticity progress 0.33333333333333333 inc = 28 time = 68649.478 iter = 1 eps = 0.69935E+02inc = 28 time = 68649.478 iter = 2 eps = 0.14418E+01 inc = 28 time = 68649.478 iter = 3 eps = 0.15276E-01 inc = 28 time = 68649.478 iter = 4 eps = 0.15571E-03 -----Plasticity progress 0.666666666666666 inc = 28 time = 85316.145 iter = 1 eps = 0.38168E+03 inc = 28 time = 85316.145 iter = 2 eps = 0.29421E+02 inc = 28 time = 85316.145 iter = 3 eps = 0.57643E+00 inc = 28 time = 85316.145 iter = 4 eps = 0.70872E-02 _____ Plasticity progress 1.0000000000000 inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 1 eps = 0.40889E+04 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 2 eps = 0.14183E+04 inc = inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 3 eps = 0.72972E+03inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 4 eps = 0.39211E+03 inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 5 eps = 0.53183E+03 Signal tag 50A1 *** CRITICAL WARNING: 3 Code 1028 Residual is increasing. Reducing time step. Reducing plasticity step Relaxation factor: 0.5000000000000 New plasticity step: 0.16666666666666666 _____

```
Plasticity progress 0.83333333333333333
 inc = 28 time = 93649.478 iter = 1 eps = 0.10225E+04
 inc =
           28 time = 93649.478
                                     iter = 2 \text{ eps} = 0.52567\text{E}+03
inc =
          28 time = 93649.478 iter = 3 eps = 0.31986E+02
        28 time = 93649.478 iter = 4 eps = 0.49688E+00
28 time = 93649.478 iter = 5 eps = 0.44681E-02
 inc =
 inc =
-----
Plasticity progress 1.0000000000000
 inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 1 eps = 0.35153E+04
inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 2 eps = 0.11223E+04
inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 3 eps = 0.45928E+03
inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 4 eps = 0.35233E+02
inc = 28 time = 101982.81 iter = 5 eps = 0.60754E+01
           28 time = 101982.81
                                     iter = 6 eps = 0.31799E+00
 inc =
            28 time = 101982.81 iter = 7 eps = 0.21561E-02
 inc =
Finished writing file results\09_mechanical_ppla_28_f.case
Finished writing file results\09_mechanical_ppla_28.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 28 = 00:00:22.64, since start = 00:00:53.68
Laver end
CPU wall for plasticity = 00:00:18.96
_____
 Substrate removal time increment
_____
         29 time =151982.81iter =1 eps =0.19473E+0429 time =151982.81iter =2 eps =0.18681E-08
 inc =
 inc =
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement = 4.204903E-01
Optimized RMS displacement = 4.141274E-01
Number of optimization iterations =
                                             231
Rotation matrix =
   1.000000E+000 1.190363E-005 4.425130E-007
 -1.190363E-005 1.000000E+000 8.177769E-006
  -4.424156E-007 -8.177774E-006 1.000000E+000
Translation = 1.011255E-004 -2.356972E-004 7.283104E-002
Finished writing file results\09_mechanical_ppla_29_f.case
Finished writing file results \09_mechanical_ppla_29.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 29 = 00:00:01.37, since start = 00:00:55.06
Layer end
-----
 Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                                  76
```

```
Mesh preview volume =
                      791.56000000000
Activated volume =
                      791.56000000000
Activated percentage =
                     100.000000000000
Signal tag 7714
*** CRITICAL WARNING: 4
Code 1041
Recoater interference detected at four layer groups. Minimum clearance of 52.767 percent at he
Finished writing file .\09_mechanical_ppla_f.case
Finished writing file .\09_mechanical_ppla.case
Analysis completed
*******
  5 Warnings
*****
*******
  4 Critical warnings
******
CPU wall for substrate removal = 00:00:01.42
CPU wall = 00:00:55.12
CPU total = 00:02:57.52
Peak RAM used for this process = 748,208 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Actual CPU times may differ. Note the plasticity steps at the end of the simulation, after the *COOL time increment and before the Substrate removal time increment.

9.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in Paraview or Simulation Utility for Netfabb.

Figures 9.2 shows the computed distortions before and after substrate release for both mechanical analyses.

Observe that pre-release distortions are roughly equivalent for the two cases. However, post release, the quantitative stress case exhibits displacements which are 28% less than without using plasticity. This shows the necessity of accounting for this behavior when looking at post-EDM builds which do not undergo heat treating.



(a) Displacement, qualitative stresses, pre-release



(c) Displacement, quantitative stresses, pre-release



(b) Displacement, qualitative stresses, post-release



(d) Displacement, quantitative stresses, post-release

Figure 9.2: Displacement results

Figures 9.3 shows the computed distortions before and after substrate release for both mechanical analyses.



(a) Displacement, qualitative stresses, pre-release



(c) Displacement, quantitative stresses, pre-release



(b) Displacement, qualitative stresses, post-release



(d) Displacement, quantitative stresses, post-release



Observe that the qualitative stresses are unrealistically high, but still indicate the same regions of peak stress in the quantitative stress case.

Example 10

Lack of Fusion *LFUS and *TPRE example

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

10.1 Problem Description

This is an example of using the state variable cards *LFUS and *TPRE to inspect the thermal history of 2 moving source simulations. The first simulation is the analysis of a single powder bed layer using the adaptive refinement methods described in Example 4. The second simulation is the analysis of a multilayer powder bed analysis using a moving heat source using both layerwise and moving adaptivity mesh coarsening techniques.

For the single layer moving adaptivity simulation, a moving heat source of 50W moving at 1000 mm/s is applied on the top surface of a $1.0 \text{mm} \times 1.0 \text{mm} \times 12.7 \text{mm}$ substrate made of Ti-6Al-4V. A surface convection of $10.d-6 \text{ W/((mm^2)^{\circ}C)}$ is applied on the top surface and the all other faces are insulated. The *ADPM card is used to control the acceptable temperature gradients across an element for coarsening, using the default settings. The mesh and laser path are automatically generated by the Netfabb Simulation solver. The melting of 3 powder layers are simulated.

For the multilayer adaptivity simulation a 3 layer simulation is completed on the top surface of a $0.5 \text{mm} \times 0.5 \text{mm} \times 12.7 \text{ mm}$ Ti-6Al-4V substrate, with a $25.d-6 \text{ W/((mm^2)^{\circ}C)}$ top surface convection, also using 50 W heat source and a scan speed of 1000 mm/s, with a 120 s interlayer dwell. Layerwise adaptivity is controlled on the auto-generated mesh using the *ADAP and *ADP1 cards. The *ADPM card is used to enable moving adaptivity.

For both simulations the *LFUS card is used with a value of 1600°C, to investigate lack of fusion. The *TPRE card is used to inspect the temperatures immediately prior to application of the heat source with the values of 690 and 1600°C, which are the stress relaxation and melting temperatures respectively.

10.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

10.2.1 Moving Adaptivity Thermal Analysis

From a command line run:

\$ pan -b t10_moving

The analysis progress is written on file moving_adapt.out. To check progress run:

```
$ tail t10_moving.out
```

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file moving_adapt.out should be similar to the following:

```
inc =
           649 time =
                        461.83593
                                      iter =
                                                1 \text{ eps} = 0.67771E-04
Finished writing file results \ t10_moving_649_c.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 649 = 00:00:00.19, since start = 00:07:43.29
Starting refine
Number of refined nodes
                              = 5708
Number of refined elements
                              = 4200
Number of equations
                              = 5446
Number of constrained eqns
                              = 262
Starting auxspar
Number of no zeros nsymmetric =122,380
Sparse preprocessing complete
            650 \text{ time} = 480.00000
inc =
                                       iter = 1 \text{ eps} = 0.67771\text{E}-04
Finished writing file results \ t10_moving_650.case
Finished writing file results \ t10_moving_650_c.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 650 = 00:00:00.21, since start = 00:07:43.50
Finished writing file .\ t10_moving.case
Finished writing file .\ t10_moving_c.case
Analysis completed
CPU wall = 00:07:43.85
CPU total = 00:30:09.72
Peak RAM used for this process = 129,344 kB
```

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ.

10.2.2 Multilayer Thermal Analysis

From a command line run:

```
$ pan -b t10_multilayer
```

The analysis progress is written on file multilayer_adapt.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail t10_multilayer.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file multilayer_adapt.out should be similar to the following:

```
231 time =
 inc =
                          800.00000
                                         iter =
                                                  1 \text{ eps} = 0.60697 \text{E} - 02
Finished writing file results \ t10_multilayer_231.case
Finished writing file results \ t10_multilayer_231_c.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 231 = 00:00:00.08, since start = 00:01:08.42
Finished writing file .\ t10_multilayer.case
Finished writing file .\ t10_multilayer_c.case
Analysis completed
CPU wall = 00:01:08.47
CPU total = 00:04:06.41
Peak RAM used for this process = 97,428 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Actual CPU times will differ.

10.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in Paraview.

10.3.1 Moving Adaptivity Thermal Analysis

Figure 10.1 shows the results of the two state variables added to the Paraview results when using *LFUS in the moving adaptivity simulation.

Using *TPRE in this simulation also produces a file t10moving_tpre.txt, which gives the increment time, heat source location, preheat temperature at that heat source location, and binary flags (1 for those that exceed the test temperatures, 0 for those which fall below) for the temperatures of interest.



(b) Melt indicator

Figure 10.1: *LFUS results moving adaptive mesh

10.3.2 *TPRE results file t10moving_tpre.txt

These are the results for the first 40 time increments

#	time, laser_x,	laser_y, laser_z	z, Temp_start,	StateVar1 for Temp	_crit = 6.900000E+02,	1.600000E	403,
	2.110243E-04,	9.812045E-01,	6.025919E-02,	0.000000E+00,	1.183370E+03,	1,	0,
	2.110243E-04,	9.812045E-01,	6.025919E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.183370E+03,	1,	0,
	2.310243E-04,	9.616060E-01,	5.627184E-02,	0.000000E+00,	1.246882E+03,	1,	0,
	2.310243E-04,	9.616060E-01,	5.627184E-02,	0.000000E+00,	1.246882E+03,	1,	0,
	2.510243E-04,	9.420075E-01,	5.228448E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.264094E+03,	1,	0,
	2.510243E-04,	9.420075E-01,	5.228448E-02,	0.000000E+00,	1.264094E+03,	1,	0,
	2.710243E-04,	9.224090E-01,	4.829712E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.249736E+03,	1,	0,
	2.710243E-04,	9.224090E-01,	4.829712E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.249736E+03,	1,	0,
	2.910243E-04,	9.028105E-01,	4.430976E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.274152E+03,	1,	0,
	2.910243E-04,	9.028105E-01,	4.430976E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.274152E+03,	1,	0,
	3.110243E-04,	8.832120E-01,	4.032240E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.260694E+03,	1,	0,
	3.110243E-04,	8.832120E-01,	4.032240E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.260694E+03,	1,	0,
	3.310243E-04,	8.636136E-01,	3.633504E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.281517E+03,	1,	0,
	3.310243E-04,	8.636136E-01,	3.633504E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.281517E+03,	1,	0,
	3.510243E-04,	8.440151E-01,	3.234769E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.262331E+03,	1,	0,
	3.510243E-04,	8.440151E-01,	3.234769E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.262331E+03,	1,	0,
	3.710243E-04,	8.244166E-01,	2.836033E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.269745E+03,	1,	0,
	3.710243E-04,	8.244166E-01,	2.836033E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.269745E+03,	1,	0,
	3.910243E-04,	8.048181E-01,	2.437297E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.275913E+03,	1,	0,
	3.910243E-04,	8.048181E-01,	2.437297E-02,	0.000000E+00,	1.275913E+03,	1,	0,
	4.110243E-04,	7.852196E-01,	2.038561E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.293645E+03,	1,	0,
	4.110243E-04,	7.852196E-01,	2.038561E-02,	0.000000E+00,	1.293645E+03,	1,	0,
	4.310243E-04,	7.656211E-01,	1.639825E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.322355E+03,	1,	0,
	4.310243E-04,	7.656211E-01,	1.639825E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.322355E+03,	1,	0,
	4.510243E-04,	7.460226E-01,	1.241089E-02,	0.000000E+00,	1.332978E+03,	1,	0,
	4.510243E-04,	7.460226E-01,	1.241089E-02,	0.000000E+00,	1.332978E+03,	1,	0,
	4.710243E-04,	7.264241E-01,	8.423535E-03,	0.00000E+00,	1.375219E+03,	1,	0,
	4.710243E-04,	7.264241E-01,	8.423535E-03,	0.000000E+00,	1.375219E+03,	1,	0,
	4.910243E-04,	7.068256E-01,	4.436177E-03,	0.000000E+00,	1.396394E+03,	1,	0,
	4.910243E-04,	7.068256E-01,	4.436177E-03,	0.00000E+00,	1.396394E+03,	1,	0,
	5.110243E-04,	6.872271E-01,	4.488181E-04,	0.00000E+00,	1.405183E+03,	1,	0,
	5.110243E-04,	6.872271E-01,	4.488181E-04,	0.00000E+00,	1.405183E+03,	1,	0,
	1.033910E-03,	2.024131E-01,	3.860940E-03,	0.00000E+00,	1.218541E+03,	1,	0,
	1.033910E-03,	2.024131E-01,	3.860940E-03,	0.00000E+00,	1.218541E+03,	1,	0,
	1.053910E-03,	2.220116E-01,	7.848298E-03,	0.00000E+00,	1.281124E+03,	1,	0,
	1.053910E-03,	2.220116E-01,	7.848298E-03,	0.00000E+00,	1.281124E+03,	1,	0,
	1.073910E-03,	2.416101E-01,	1.183566E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.294444E+03,	1,	0,
	1.073910E-03,	2.416101E-01,	1.183566E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.294444E+03,	1,	0,
	1.093910E-03,	2.612086E-01,	1.582301E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.300685E+03,	1,	0,
	1.093910E-03,	2.612086E-01,	1.582301E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.300685E+03,	1,	0,

These preheating results can also be visualized using the visual tool of the user's choice (e.g. Scilab, Matlab, or Python). An example for a similar simulation using a 3 mm \times 3 mm block is presented in Figure 10.2.



Figure 10.2: Visualization of *TPRE results

10.3.3 Multilayer Thermal Analysis

Figure 10.3 shows the results of the two state variables added to the Paraview results when using *LFUS in the multilayer adaptive simulation. Paraview has a filter option *Threshold* that will only show those elements with values within a specified range for scalar results which makes it easier just to investigate the region of melt. Figure 10.4 shows the peak temperature and melt indicator results for elements which have a melt indicator value of 1.



(b) Melt indicator

Figure 10.3: LFUS results multilayer mesh

Using *TPRE in this simulation also produces a file t10multilayer_tpre.txt, which gives the increment time, heat source location, preheat temperature at that heat source location, and binary flags (1 for those that exceed the test temperatures, 0 for those which fall below) for the temperatures of interest.



(b) Melt indicator

Figure 10.4: LFUS results multilayer mesh using threshold filtering

10.3.4 *TPRE results file t10multilayer_tpre.txt

These are the results for the first 40 time increments

# 1	time, laser_x,	laser_y, laser_z	z, Temp_start,	StateVar1 for Temp	_crit = 6.900000E+02,	1.600000)E+03,
1	2.110243E-04,	4.812045E-01,	6.025919E-02,	0.00000E+00,	9.967262E+02,	1,	0,
1	2.110243E-04,	4.812045E-01,	6.025919E-02,	0.00000E+00,	9.967262E+02,	1,	0,
1	2.310243E-04,	4.616060E-01,	5.627184E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.047308E+03,	1,	0,
1	2.310243E-04,	4.616060E-01,	5.627184E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.047308E+03,	1,	0,
:	2.510243E-04,	4.420075E-01,	5.228448E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.064964E+03,	1,	0,
1	2.510243E-04,	4.420075E-01,	5.228448E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.064964E+03,	1,	0,
:	2.710243E-04,	4.224090E-01,	4.829712E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.062888E+03,	1,	0,
:	2.710243E-04,	4.224090E-01,	4.829712E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.062888E+03,	1,	0,
:	2.910243E-04,	4.028105E-01,	4.430976E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.068414E+03,	1,	0,
:	2.910243E-04,	4.028105E-01,	4.430976E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.068414E+03,	1,	0,
;	3.110243E-04,	3.832120E-01,	4.032240E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.065790E+03,	1,	0,
:	3.110243E-04,	3.832120E-01,	4.032240E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.065790E+03,	1,	0,
:	3.310243E-04,	3.636136E-01,	3.633504E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.069138E+03,	1,	0,
;	3.310243E-04,	3.636136E-01,	3.633504E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.069138E+03,	1,	0,
:	3.510243E-04,	3.440151E-01,	3.234768E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.070207E+03,	1,	0,
:	3.510243E-04,	3.440151E-01,	3.234768E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.070207E+03,	1,	0,
:	3.710243E-04,	3.244166E-01,	2.836032E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.074631E+03,	1,	0,
:	3.710243E-04,	3.244166E-01,	2.836032E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.074631E+03,	1,	0,
:	3.910243E-04,	3.048181E-01,	2.437297E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.081879E+03,	1,	0,
:	3.910243E-04,	3.048181E-01,	2.437297E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.081879E+03,	1,	0,
	4.110243E-04,	2.852196E-01,	2.038561E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.089785E+03,	1,	0,
	4.110243E-04,	2.852196E-01,	2.038561E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.089785E+03,	1,	0,
	4.310243E-04,	2.656211E-01,	1.639825E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.109395E+03,	1,	0,
	4.310243E-04,	2.656211E-01,	1.639825E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.109395E+03,	1,	0,
	4.510243E-04,	2.460226E-01,	1.241089E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.128674E+03,	1,	0,
	4.510243E-04,	2.460226E-01,	1.241089E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.128674E+03,	1,	0,
	4.710243E-04,	2.264241E-01,	8.423532E-03,	0.00000E+00,	1.158016E+03,	1,	0,
	4.710243E-04,	2.264241E-01,	8.423532E-03,	0.00000E+00,	1.158016E+03,	1,	0,
	4.910243E-04,	2.068256E-01,	4.436173E-03,	0.00000E+00,	1.179002E+03,	1,	0,
	4.910243E-04,	2.068256E-01,	4.436173E-03,	0.00000E+00,	1.179002E+03,	1,	0,
;	5.110243E-04,	1.872271E-01,	4.488143E-04,	0.00000E+00,	1.182956E+03,	1,	0,
1	5.110243E-04,	1.872271E-01,	4.488143E-04,	0.00000E+00,	1.182956E+03,	1,	0,
- 1	8.739096E-04,	1.879548E-02,	6.822967E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.008571E+03,	1,	0,
1	8.739096E-04,	1.879548E-02,	6.822967E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.008571E+03,	1,	0,
- 1	8.939096E-04,	3.839398E-02,	7.221703E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.062931E+03,	1,	0,
1	8.939096E-04,	3.839398E-02,	7.221703E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.062931E+03,	1,	0,
1	9.139096E-04,	5.799247E-02,	7.620439E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.084469E+03,	1,	0,
1	9.139096E-04,	5.799247E-02,	7.620439E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.084469E+03,	1,	0,
1	9.339096E-04,	7.759097E-02,	8.019175E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.089238E+03,	1,	0,
1	9.339096E-04,	7.759097E-02,	8.019175E-02,	0.00000E+00,	1.089238E+03,	1,	0,

10.3.5 Using timex for multilayer adaptivity simulations

From the command line run:

\$ timex timex-madap-input.txt

This is similar to the timex input file shown in example 1, but with the additional cards ***CRSE** and ***SHFT** which enable timex to work with multilayer adaptivity. The above example timex input file records the temperatures at the center of the build cross section x=0.25 mm, y=0.25 at 6 different z locations. Running the above command will produce the file timex_peaktemp_t10multilayer.txt. A plot of the temperatures at 6 queried locations is shown in Figure 10.5.



Figure 10.5: Multilayer adaptivity thermal history of the build region center at 6 z locations

Example 11

Modeling Support Structures using Multiple STLs

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

11.1 Problem Description

An Inconel[®] 625 spherical geometry with support structures is built in a powder bed system using generic processing parameters. Both the part and support structure geometries are imported in the analysis through STL files and both are automatically meshed within Netfabb Simulation . The buildplate is modeled to be 10.88 mm thick using *DDM!. The time to deposit layers is calculated using the *PBDL card, here modeling the case where 5 identical geometries are built at once. The bottom of the build plate is fixed using the *FSUB card. The *FSUB card will also simulate the release of the buildplate from the machine after the deposition process is complete, but before the part is removed from the buildplate. The mesh, shown with and without the support elements, is shown in Figures 11.1.



Figure 11.1: Sphere with and without supports.

A time incremental thermal analysis is performed first to compute the temperature history of the part. Layers are activated in groups using *PBPA, and additional time increments are used to model heat conduction into the part. The thermal analysis includes only the part and substrate. Heat loss into the powder is modeled as convection with a value of 25.d-6 W/((mm²)°C) using *CONV. The build plate is pre-heated to 100 °C.

A time incremental mechanical analysis is performed after the thermal analysis is completed. Similarly to the thermal analysis, layers are activated in groups and the computed temperature distribution from the mechanical analysis is used to compute deformation due to the thermal expansion. These simulations have three additional post-process simulation increments, first Netfabb Simulation simulates the release of the buildplate from the machine, then the removal of the build from the buildplate, and finally the removal of the support structure material from the final build.

11.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

11.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the model, from a command line run:

\$ pan -b t11

The analysis progress is written on file multistl_thermal.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail t11.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file multistl_thermal.out should be similar to the following:

```
Mesh preview volume =
                        4487.62499999999
Activated volume
                        4487.62499999999
                   =
Activated percentage =
                        100.00000000000
Finished writing file .\ t11.case
Analysis completed
*********
  1 Warning
******
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:23.22
CPU wall = 00:00:34.46
CPU total = 00:01:41.33
Peak RAM used for this process = 181,672 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
Actual CPU times will differ.
```

11.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the mechanical analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b m11

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file multistl_mech.out should be similar to the following:

```
-----
Support structure removal time increment
_____
inc = 40 time = 18831.914 iter = 1 eps = 0.29089E+03
inc = 40 time = 18831.914 iter = 2 eps = 0.31843E-09
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement = 1.045277E-01
Optimized RMS displacement = 1.030341E-01
Number of optimization iterations =
                                     235
Rotation matrix =
  1.000000E+000 -5.369748E-007 7.783688E-006
  5.369652E-007 1.000000E+000 1.233429E-006
 -7.783688E-006 -1.233425E-006 1.000000E+000
Translation = 9.521316E-005 3.760801E-006 1.760589E-002
Finished writing file results \ m11_40_f.case
Finished writing file results \ m11_40.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 40 = 00:00:01.99, since start = 00:01:10.28
Layer end
 _____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                         79
Mesh preview volume = 4487.62499999999
Activated volume = 4487.62499999999
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Finished writing file . \ m11_f.case
Finished writing file .\ m11.case
Analysis completed
*********
  12 Warnings
******
******
  1 Critical warning
```

CPU wall for support removal = 00:00:02.04 CPU wall = 00:01:10.33 CPU total = 00:04:05.03

Peak RAM used for this process = 801,804 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ.

Each of the warnings note a support structure element failure.

11.3 Results

First look at the m11_recoater.txt file to investigate possible build failure.

time (s),	layer	group,	recoater	clearance	(%),	top z	defo	ormed	coord	(mm),	recoater	coord	(mm)
1.43093	35E+03		1	90.476	5 1.1	.88381	E+01	1.19	2000E+	-01			
2.86197	′0E+03		2	90.871	1.3	32365	E+01	1.33	6000E+	-01			
4.29300)5E+03		3	89.202	2 1.4	76432	E+01	1.48	0000E+	-01			
5.69437	′8E+03		4	85.537	1.6	20579	E+01	1.62	4000E+	-01			
7.11684	L3E+03		5	57.511	1.7	65700	E+01	1.76	8000E+	-01			
8.54743	39E+03		6	81.812	2 1.9	08728	E+01	1.91	2000E+	-01			
9.95452	24E+03		7	86.276	2.0	52549	E+01	2.05	6000E+	-01			
1.13095	53E+04		8	90.012	2.1	96400	E+01	2.20	0000E+	-01			
1.25841	2E+04		9	93.537	2.3	840259	E+01	2.34	4000E+	-01			
1.37510)5E+04		10	96.652	2.4	84134	E+01	2.48	8000E+	-01			
1.47769	91E+04		11	99.985	2.6	28001	E+01	2.63	2000E+	-01			
1.56355	55E+04		12	107.644	2.7	71694	E+01	2.77	6000E+	-01			

This indicates that recoater interference should not be an issue for this geometry. Now look at the simulation results.

Figure 11.2 shows the results for the 3rd to the last increment, before any elements have been removed, after clipping the part to show the center of the build.

Observe that there are numerous failed supports, as indicated in both the simulation log file. Let us examine the results to ensure these failures did not result in excessive distortion.

Figures 11.3 shows the computed final distortion from the mechanical analysis (m1.in) after the part is removed from the buildplate, and after the support material has been removed.

Observing these results show that despite the support structure failure, the part has maintained a high degree of dimensional accuracy. It is good engineering practice however to check these final dimensions to the tolerances of the part with respect to its end use.



Figure 11.2: Structure type results



Figure 11.3: Distortion [mm] (1x magnification) basic analysis.

Example 12

Multi-Scale Powder Bed Simulations with Powder

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

12.1 Problem Description

An Inconel[®] 625 spherical geometry with support structures is built in a powder bed system using generic processing parameters. Both the part and support structure geometries are imported in the analysis through STL files and both are automatically meshed by the Netfabb Simulation solver. The buildplate is modeled to be 10.88 mm thick using *DDM!. The time to deposit layers is calculated using the *PBDL card, here modeling the case where 5 identical geometries are built at once. The simulation is run twice, once without including powder, and one including powder in the multiscale analysis, using the *+PDR card. Powder properties are automatically scaled. Thermal conductivity of the powder is $0.01 \times$ that of the solid while specific heat is $0.6 \times$ that of the solid property. The bottom of the build plate is fixed using the *FSUB card. The *FSUB card will also simulate the release of the buildplate from the machine after the deposition process is complete, but before the part is removed from the buildplate. The mesh, shown with support elements, without support elements, and a cross section from the thermal analysis, with meshed powder, is shown in Figures 12.1.

A time incremental thermal analysis is performed first to compute the temperature history of the part. Layers are activated in groups using *PBPA, and additional time increments are used to model heat conduction into the part. The first thermal analysis includes only the part and substrate, with heat loss into the powder being modeled as convection with a value of 25.d-6 W/((mm²)°C) using *CONV. The second thermal analysis models the powder, part, and substrate. Convection boundary conditions are applied at the surface of the powder and substrate surface, also with a value of 25.d-6 W/((mm²)°C).

Two time incremental mechanical analyses are performed after the thermal analyses are completed. Similarly to the thermal analyses, layers are activated in groups and the computed temperature distribution from the mechanical analysis is used to compute deformation due to the thermal expansion. These simulations have three additional post-process simulation increments, first Netfabb Simulation simulates the release of the buildplate from the machine, then the removal of the build from the buildplate, and finally the removal of the support structure material from the final build.



(c) Sectioned sphere with powder elements

Figure 12.1: Sphere with supports, without supports, and with powder elements.

12.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

12.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the thermal model without powder, from a command line run:

\$ pan -b t0

The analysis progress is written on file t0.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail t0.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file t0.out should be similar to the following:

```
CPU wall for increment 37 = 00:00:01.39, since start = 00:00:36.05
 inc =
            38 time =
                        15831.914
                                      iter =
                                               1 \text{ eps} = 0.45808E+02
 inc =
            38 time =
                        15831.914
                                      iter =
                                               2 \text{ eps} = 0.13437 \text{E} - 12
Finished writing file results \ t0_38.case
Writing record:
                          2, time:
                                      15831.9140625000
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 38 = 00:00:00.58, since start = 00:00:36.63
Layer end
Mesh preview volume = 4487.62499999999
Activated volume = 4487.62499999999
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Finished writing file . \ t0.case
Analysis completed
*******
   1 Warning
*********
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:23.64
CPU wall = 00:00:36.68
CPU total = 00:01:43.92
Peak RAM used for this process = 201,740 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
Actual CPU times will differ.
  To run the thermal model with powder, from a command line run:
   $ pan -b t1
  The analysis progress is written on file t1.out. To check progress run:
```

\$ tail t1.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file t1.out should be similar to the following:

```
CPU wall for increment 37 = 00:00:02.26, since start = 00:01:07.12
inc =
            38 time =
                      15831.914
                                     iter =
                                             1 \text{ eps} = 0.44958E+02
inc =
            38 time = 15831.914
                                    iter =
                                             2 \text{ eps} = 0.13987\text{E}-12
Finished writing file results \ t1_38.case
Writing record:
                         2. time:
                                    15831.9140625000
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 38 = 00:00:01.05, since start = 00:01:08.17
Layer end
Mesh preview volume = 4487.62499999999
Activated volume
                  = 4487.62499999999
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Finished writing file . \ t1.case
Analysis completed
*********
  1 Warning
*****
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:33.06
CPU wall = 00:01:08.23
CPU total = 00:02:38.15
```

Peak RAM used for this process = 503,436 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ.

12.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the mechanical analysis without powder from the command line:

\$ pan -b mO

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file m0.out should be similar to the following:

Support structure removal time increment inc = 40 time = 18831.914 iter = 1 eps = 0.25654E+03

```
inc = 40 time = 18831.914 iter = 2 eps = 0.37390E-09
Optimizing rigid body motion...
                              = 9.425852E-02
Initial RMS displacement
Optimized RMS displacement = 9.416243E-02
Number of optimization iterations = 254
Rotation matrix =
  1.000000E+000 -8.785314E-008 7.088365E-006
 8.772185E-008 1.000000E+000 1.852115E-005
-7.088366E-006 -1.852114E-005 1.000000E+000
Translation = 9.830615E-005 1.326112E-004 4.245931E-003
Finished writing file results \ m0_40_f.case
Finished writing file results \ mO_40.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 40 = 00:00:01.94, since start = 00:01:16.89
Layer end
  _____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                         79
Mesh preview volume = 4487.62499999999
Activated volume = 4487.62499999999
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Finished writing file .\ m0_f.case
Finished writing file . \setminus m0.case
Analysis completed
******
  14 Warnings
******
*******
  1 Critical warning
*****
CPU wall for support removal = 00:00:01.99
CPU wall = 00:01:16.94
CPU total = 00:04:20.45
Peak RAM used for this process = 843,580 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Actual CPU times will differ. Each of the warnings note a support structure element failure. The critical warning notes that 100% of the interface supports have failed.

Now run the mechanical analysis with powder from the command line:

\$ pan -b m1

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file m1.out should be similar to the following:

```
-----
Support structure removal time increment
-----
          40 time = 18831.914 iter = 1 eps = 0.22759E+03
inc =
                              iter = 2 eps = 0.34243E-09
         40 time = 18831.914
inc =
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement = 9.236756E-02
Optimized RMS displacement
                         = 9.159054E-02
Number of optimization iterations =
                                    260
Rotation matrix =
  1.000000E+000 -5.511982E-007 6.848050E-006
  5.511890E-007 1.000000E+000 1.344858E-006
 -6.848051E-006 -1.344854E-006 1.000000E+000
Translation = 9.141438E-005 2.488683E-005 1.195560E-002
Finished writing file results \ m1_40_f.case
Finished writing file results \ m1_40.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 40 = 00:00:02.05, since start = 00:01:43.27
Layer end
_____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                         79
Mesh preview volume = 4487.62499999999
Activated volume = 4487.62499999999
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Finished writing file .\ m1_f.case
Finished writing file . \ m1.case
Analysis completed
******
  16 Warnings
*******
```

Actual CPU times will differ. Each of the warnings note a support structure element failure. Again the critical warning states that all of the contact support structures have failed.

12.3 Results

First look at the thermal results. Figure 12.2 shows the model temperature at the end of two different layer group simulations, for both the with and without powder results.



Figure 12.2: Temperatures results at two different time steps for the analysis with and without powder elements included.

Looking at the above temperature it is apparent that including the powder makes a significant difference in the temperature history of the part. The simulations with the powder are warmer than the without powder model, which uses convection to approximate loses due to powder effects. This may have an impact upon the subsequent mechanical simulation results. First look at the support structure failure.

Figure 12.3 shows the results for the 3rd to the last increment, before any elements have been removed, after clipping the part to show the center of the build.



(a) Structure type, without powder

(b) Structure type, with powder

Figure 12.3: Structure type results

These values correspond as follows:

- -1 Unsupported Elements
- 0 Build plate
- 1 Powder
- 2 Component
- 3 Homogenized component
- 4 Support structure
- 5 Failed support structure

There are failed supports for both simulations. However there were no recoater interference warnings, so these may not have a catastrophic effect. Looking at the displacement results will indicate if these are problematic for production using either approach.

Figures 12.4 shows the predicted displacement in the X direction from the mechanical analysis after build plate release and cooldown, but before support structure or build plate removal.



Figure 12.4: X Displacement, with or without powder [mm] (1x magnification).

Neither of these simulations have excessive distortion. However, note that the simulation with powder distorts 12.5% less than the simulation without powder. This shows that the modeling of heat losses due to powder effects may have a large effect upon the predicted distortion.

Example 13

Peak temperature modeling using multi-layer moving adaptivity

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

13.1 Problem Description

This example utilizes the multi-layer moving adaptivity to investigate peak temperatures during Laser Powder Bed Fusion processing. There are two simulations in this example, one which shows peak temperatures only after the final layer, one which shows the peak temperatures develop over the deposition process. Both simulations use a 150 W source moving at 600 mm/s to simulate the melting of two layers of Inconel 718 powder, on a sample 0.5 mm \times 0.5 mm \times square with 12.5 mm substrate. A surface convection of 10.d-6 W/((mm²)-°C) is applied on the top surface and the all other faces are insulated. The *ADPM card is used to control the acceptable temperature gradients across an element for coarsening, using the default settings. For both simulations the *LFUS card is used with a value of 1200 °C, to investigate lack of fusion. The mesh and laser path are automatically generated using Netfabb Simulation .

13.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

13.2.1 Final Peak Temperature Model

From a command line run:

\$ pan -b 13_final

The analysis progress is written on file 13_final.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail 13_final.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 13_final.out should be similar to the following:

inc = 171 time = 480.00000 iter = 1 eps = 0.15058E-03
inc = 171 time = 480.00000 iter = 2 eps = 0.10500E-06
Finished writing file results\ t13_final_171.case

Finished writing file results\ t13_final_171_c.case Increment end CPU wall for increment 171 = 00:00:00.01, since start = 00:00:14.56 Finished writing file .\ t13_final.case Finished writing file .\ t13_final_c.case

Analysis completed

CPU wall = 00:00:14.62 CPU total = 00:00:31.59

Peak RAM used for this process = 35,984 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ. The warning is a time adjustment indicator.

13.2.2 Full Peak Temperature History Model

From a command line run:

\$ pan -b 13_history

The analysis progress is written on file 13_history.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail 13_history.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 13_history.out should be similar to the following:

```
inc = 171 time = 480.00000 iter = 1 eps = 0.15058E-03
inc = 171 time = 480.00000 iter = 2 eps = 0.10500E-06
Finished writing file results\ t13_history_171.case
Finished writing file results\ t13_history_171_c.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 171 = 00:00:00.01, since start = 00:00:15.84
Finished writing file .\ t13_history.case
Finished writing file .\ t13_history_c.case
```

Analysis completed

 CPU wall = 00:00:15.89 CPU total = 00:00:34.07

Peak RAM used for this process = 35,072 kB END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation Actual CPU times will differ.

13.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in Paraview or Autodesk Simulation Utility for Netfabb.

13.3.1 Peak Temperature results

Figure 13.1 shows the peak temperature results for the final and full history cases, after deposition.



Figure 13.1: Peak temperature results

The final results for both cases are identical.

Example 14

Multiscale Lack of Fusion and Hotspot Prediction

14.1 Problem Description

This example illustrates how to generate a Process Parameter file for multi-scale thermal analysis. This analysis tool allows the user to investigate to see how a set of processing parameters will incur lack of fusion or overheating on a particular geometry. This follows the same method in previous chapters, where first a prm file is generated, which simulates the melting of a few layers on a small melt region, then that prm file applied to a part scale model, to predict that geometry will behave if built with the corresponding processing parameters used to generate the prm file.

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

In order to run Part-Level Powder-Bed analysis in Netfabb Simulation , a process parameter (.prm) file must first be generated. The .prm file links the small scale moving-source analysis to the full Part-Level analysis.

To illustrate the usefulness of these options, two prm files are generated in this example, one that results in lack of fusion problems, one that results in hot spots. The lack of fusion processing parameters are:

- Power: 125 W
- Laser spot size: 0.08 mm
- Scan speed: 600 mm/s
- Layer thickness: 0.04 mm
- Hatch spacing: 0.15 mm
- Recoater time: 15 s
- Initial angle rotation: 11.5 degrees
- Interlayer hatch angle rotation: 67 degrees

The hot spot processing parameters are:

- Power: 250 W
- Laser spot size: 0.08 mm
- Scan speed: 600 mm/s
- Layer thickness: 0.04 mm
- Hatch spacing: 0.1 mm
- Recoater time: 15 s
- Initial angle rotation: 11.5 degrees
- Interlayer hatch angle rotation: 67 degrees

The parameters are entered into the *LSRP card. The *GTAB card enables PRM file output and specifies the name of the process parameter file.

14.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

To generate the lack of fusion prm file, from a command line run:

\$ prm_gen /t 14-fine-lfus.in /i 25 300 600 /l 1290 1350 /o 2200 2600 3000 /d 0.5 0.5 5 > lfus.out

The options have the following effects:

/t - Switch for thermal analyses.

/i - Switch for interlayer temperatures. This list, in °C, tabulates the interlayer temperatures to be recorded for subsequent part scale analysis.

/l - Switch for lack of fusion temperatures. This list, in °C, is the temperature or temperatures which may lead to lack of fusion.

 $/\circ$ - Switch for hot spot temperatures. This list, in °C, are for temperature thresholds which may result in deleterious effects.

/d - Switch for dimension control. By default the small scale block for thermal analysis is 1 mm \times 1 mm and 5 layers high. This switch overrides those defaults. To decrease the computational time, a smaller block is simulated for this example.

After the prm generation completes, the end of the log file will look as follows:

```
Thermal PRM input file = 14-fine-lfus
Initial temperatures:
    25.00000000000
    300.0000000000
    600.00000000000
Lack of fusion temperatures:
    1290.0000000000
    1350.0000000000
Hot spots temperatures:
    2200.0000000000
2600.000000000
2600.000000000
X size = 0.500000000000
```

```
Y size = 0.500000000000

Number of layers = 5

Reading input file 14-fine-lfus.in

Generating new table file: LFUS.prm

Generating threshold fraction data...

Running interlayer temperature 25.000000000000...

Running interlayer temperature 300.00000000000...

Running interlayer temperature 600.0000000000...

Successfully generated prm file LFUS.prm

CPU wall = 00:11:23.85
```

This indicates the LFUS.prm file is now available for use in part-scale thermal analyses. But first generate the hot spot example prm file using the same options as the lack of fusion parameter:

\$ prm_gen /t 14-fine-hotspot.in /i 25 300 600 /l 1290 1350 /o 2200 2600 3000 /d 0.5 0.5 5 > hotspot.out

After the prm generation completes, the end of the log file will look as follows:

```
Thermal PRM input file
                          = 14-fine-hotspot
Initial temperatures:
  25.0000000000000
  300.00000000000
  600.000000000000
Lack of fusion temperatures:
  1290.0000000000
  1350.0000000000
Hot spots temperatures:
  2200.0000000000
  2600.00000000000
  3000.0000000000
X size =
         0.500000000000000
Y size =
         0.500000000000000
Number of layers =
                              5
Reading input file 14-fine-hotspot.in
Generating new table file: hotspot.prm
Generating threshold fraction data...
Running interlayer temperature
                                  25.00000000000...
Running interlayer temperature
                                  300.00000000000...
Running interlayer temperature
                                  600.0000000000...
Successfully generated prm file hotspot.prm
CPU wall = 00:19:37.33
```

Now apply these prm files to part scale analyses. First run the part scale lack of fusion example from the command line:

\$pan -b 14-lfus

Use type or tail to probe the log file, 14_lfus.out. The end of the log file should look similar to the following:

```
inc =
            35 time =
                        3352.0313
                                                1 \text{ eps} = 0.10573E+03
                                       iter =
             35 time =
                                                 2 \text{ eps} = 0.17223E-12
 inc =
                         3352.0313
                                        iter =
Finished writing file results\14-lfus_35.case
Finished writing file results14-1fus_{35}c.case
Writing record:
                           2, time:
                                        3352.03125000000
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 35 = 00:00:00.32, since start = 00:00:15.58
Layer end
Mesh preview volume =
                          761.06250000000
Activated volume
                     =
                          761.06250000000
Activated percentage =
                          100.00000000000
Finished writing file .\14-lfus.case
Finished writing file .\14-lfus_c.case
Analysis completed
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:07.08
CPU wall = 00:00:15.63
CPU total = 00:00:31.77
Peak RAM used for this process = 102,392 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Now run the hot spot example:

\$pan -b 14-hotspot

Use type or tail to probe the log file, 14_hotspot.out. The end of the log file should look similar to the following:

35 time = inc =3880.5469 iter = 1 eps = 0.31925E+03 35 time = 3880.5469 2 eps = inc =iter = 0.55398E-12 Finished writing file results\14-hotspot_35.case Finished writing file results\14-hotspot_35_c.case 2, time: Writing record: 3880.54687500000 Increment end

```
CPU wall for increment 35 = 00:00:00.29, since start = 00:00:15.53
Layer end
Mesh preview volume =
                         761.06250000000
Activated volume
                   =
                         761.06250000000
Activated percentage =
                         100.00000000000
Finished writing file .\14-hotspot.case
Finished writing file .\14-hotspot_c.case
Analysis completed
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:07.18
CPU wall = 00:00:15.58
CPU total = 00:00:32.90
Peak RAM used for this process = 100,608 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

14.3 Results

Figure 14.1 shows the peak interlayer temperatures from the two part scale simulations. The temperatures displayed are those after each layer of material is melted and the cool down period has completed. Observe how the hotspot case has much higher temperatures than the lack of fusion case. This will impact both the lack of fusion and hotspot behavior in each simulation, presented later.



(a) Lack of fusion peak interlayer temperatures



(b) Hotspot peak interlayer temperatures

Figure 14.1: Peak temperature results for the two cases, in $^{\circ}C$



Figure 14.2 presents the lack of fusion case threshold results.

(c) Lack of fusion case, 2200 °C threshold

(d) Lack of fusion case, 2600 °C threshold

Figure 14.2: Lack of fusion case results

For this case, which intentionally used low heat input processing parameters, there is clear indication that there is lack of fusion problems. The minimum lack of fusion volume percentage for the 1290°C temperature is 20.3%. This indicates that more than 20% of the deposited volume does not even reach the solidus temperature, indicating there will be significant lack of fusion. The 1350°C check shows that over 28% of the build volume does not fully melt. This could cause lack of adhesion or build failure early on in the production of this part. Overheating is not an issue with this set of processing conditions, as a negligible portion of the build volume exceeds 2200°C, and none of the part reaches 2600°C.

Figure 14.3 presents the hotspot case results.



Figure 14.3: Hotspot case results

As expected the hotspot results are opposite of the lack of fusion case. The part shows no lack of fusion problems, with all of the deposited part reaching the liquidus temperature of 1350°C. More than 93% of the part reaches at least 2200°C, more than 61% of the volume exceeds 2600°C, and more than 25% of the volume is heated oever 3000°C. This shows these processing parameters create excessive heat. Hotspot reduction may be achieved by reducing the power input, increasing the interlayer dwell time, or adding support structures to draw heat away from the unconnected regions into the base plate.

Example 15

Thermo-mechanical processing & heat treatment modeling

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

15.1 Problem Description

A simulation of a laser powder bed fusion build of a generic geometry from $\text{Inconel}^{\textcircled{\text{B}}}625$ on a SAE 304 build plate is completed using generic processing conditions, then the heat treatment of the component is modeled. The substrate is assumed to be 25mm thick. The resulting mesh is illustrated in Figures 16.1.



Figure 15.1: Autogenerated mesh.

A time incremental thermal analysis is performed first to compute the temperature history of the part. Layers are activated in groups, and additional time increments are used to model heat conduction into the part. The thermal analysis includes only the part and substrate. Heat loss into the powder is modeled as convection with a value of 25.d-6 W/($(mm^2)^{\circ}C$) using the *CONV option.

A time incremental mechanical analysis is performed after the thermal analysis is completed using quantitative stress analysis settings. Similarly to the thermal analysis, layers are activated in groups using *PBPA and the computed temperature distribution from the mechanical analysis is used to compute deformation due to the thermal expansion.

At the end of the build simulation heat treatment of the component and build plate is modeled using a sample heat treatment schedule to stress relieve the part. The build plate is heated to 899°C over a half an hour, held at 899°C for 2.5 hours, and then cooled down to ambient temperature over 3 hours. The aim of the stress relieving temperature is to remove around 90% of the residual stresses of the as built part.

15.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

15.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the model, from a command line run:

```
$ pan -b ht_bench_t
```

The analysis progress is written on file ht_bench_t.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail ht_bench_t.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file ht_bench_t.out should be similar to the following:

```
Heat treatment step #
                    6
Heat treatment time = 21600.000
Furnace temperature = 25.00000
            58 time =
                       149724.69
                                                      0.32805E+01
 inc =
                                     iter =
                                              1 eps =
            58 time =
                       149724.69
 inc =
                                     iter =
                                              2 eps =
                                                      0.12222E+00
inc =
            58 time =
                       149724.69
                                             3 eps =
                                                      0.23352E-02
                                     iter =
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_t_58.case
                                     149724.687500000
Writing record:
                         6, time:
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 58 = 00:00:00.36, since start = 00:00:23.05
Mesh preview volume =
                        9347.0000000000
Activated volume
                   =
                        9347.0000000000
Activated percentage =
                        100.00000000000
Finished writing file .\ ht_bench_t.case
Analysis completed
*********
   2 Warnings
*******
```

Peak RAM used for this process = 113,072 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ.

15.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the mechanical analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b ht_bench_m

The analysis progress is written in the file ht_bench_m.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail ht_bench_m.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file ht_bench_m.out should be similar to the following:

```
Heat treatment step # 6
Heat treatment time = 21600.000
Furnace temperature = 25.00000
           60 time = 149724.69 iter = 1 eps = 0.20353E+07
60 time = 149724.69 iter = 2 eps = 0.40286E-08
inc =
inc =
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_m_60_f.case
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_m_60.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 60 = 00:00:00.69, since start = 00:00:48.54
CPU wall for heat treatment = 00:00:07.85
------
Substrate removal time increment
_____
         61 time = 199724.69
                                    iter = 1 eps = 0.82766E+05
inc =
inc =
          61 time = 199724.69
                                    iter = 2 eps = 0.69522E-09
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement
                               =
                                     1.530203E-01
Optimized RMS displacement
                          =
                                     1.433539E-01
Number of optimization iterations =
                                          216
```

```
Rotation matrix =
 1.000000E+000 1.198705E-007 -7.517468E-008
-1.198704E-007 1.000000E+000 1.899292E-006
  7.517491E-008 -1.899292E-006
                                1.000000E+000
Translation = -1.369874E-003 6.043220E-004 5.347694E-002
Finished writing file results ht_bench_m_61_f.case
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_m_61.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 61 = 00:00:00.59, since start = 00:00:49.14
_____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                            138
Mesh preview volume = 9347.0000000000
Activated volume = 9347.0000000000
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Finished writing file . \ ht_bench_m_f.case
Finished writing file .\ ht_bench_m.case
Analysis completed
*******
  2 Warnings
*******
*******
  1 Critical warning
******
CPU wall for substrate removal = 00:00:00.64
CPU wall = 00:00:49.19
CPU total = 00:02:14.62
Peak RAM used for this process = 373,368 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Actual CPU times may differ. Note both the plasticity and heat treatment steps after the build simulation finishes.

15.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in Paraview or Simulation Utility for Netfabb. Figures 15.2 shows the temperatures during the simulated heat treatment.



(a) Heat treatment temperatures, increment 1 (b) Heat treatment temperatures, increment 2



(c) Heat treatment temperatures, increment 3 (d) Heat treatment temperatures, increment 4



(e) Heat treatment temperatures, increment 5

Figure 15.2: Heat treatment temperature results, temperatures in $^{\circ}\mathrm{C}$

The modeled stresses in the component and build plate after the plasticity model is introduced but before heat treatment is shown in Figure 15.3. These are the high residual stresses which make using non-heat treated AM parts inadvisable.



Figure 15.3: Modeled stresses prior to heat treatment

Figures 15.4 shows the modeled stresses during the heat treatment simulation.



(a) Heat treatment Cauchy XX stresses, (b) Heat treatment Cauchy XX stresses, increment 1 increment 2



(c) Heat treatment Cauchy XX stresses, (d) Heat treatment Cauchy XX stresses, increment 3 increment 4



Figure 15.4: Heat treatment Cauchy XX stress results

Observe the stresses reduce as the temperatures increase. Then as the heated part is slowly brought back to room temperature, new thermal stresses are introduced. Looking at the Von Mises Stresses in Figure 15.5, the final, room temperature part has peak stresses that are 90% of the peak stresses prior to heat treatment. This achieves the goal of removing 90% of the stresses induced by the LPBF construction process by the means of stress relief heat treatment.



(a) Heat treatment Von Mises stresses, before heat (b) Heat treatment Von Mises stresses, after heat treatment

Figure 15.5: Von Mises stress results before and after heat treatment

Example 16

Heat treatment modeling using the restart capabilities

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

16.1 Problem Description

A simulation of a laser powder bed fusion build of a generic geometry from Inconel[®]625 on a SAE 304 build plate is completed using generic processing conditions, then the heat treatment of the component is modeled using two different heat treatment cycles. The substrate is assumed to be 25mm thick. The resulting mesh is illustrated in Figures 16.1.



Figure 16.1: Autogenerated mesh

A time incremental thermal analysis is performed first to compute the temperature history of the part. Layers are activated in groups, and additional time increments are used to model heat conduction into the part. The thermal analysis includes only the part and substrate. Heat loss into the powder is modeled as convection with a value of 25.d-6 W/((mm²) $^{\circ}$ C) using the *CONV option.

A time incremental mechanical analysis is performed after the thermal analysis is completed using quantitative stress analysis settings. Similarly to the thermal analysis, layers are activated in groups using *PBPA and the computed temperature distribution from the mechanical analysis is used to compute deformation due to the thermal expansion.

At the end of the build simulation heat treatment of the component and build plate is modeled using a sample heat treatment schedule to stress relieve the part. The build plate is heated to 899°C over a half an hour, held at 899°C for 2.5 hours, and then cooled down to ambient temperature over 3 hours. The aim of the stress relieving temperature is to remove around 90% of the residual stresses of the as built part. During this simulation, restart files are written using the *ORES control card.

A second heat treatment cycle is modeled using the exact same model and processing conditions. Using the *REST card, this can be achieved without having to rerun the process simulation. The heat treatment cycle begins at the end of the processing model, using the previous model results. The new heat treatment cycle heats the chamber to 700°C over the course of 2 hours, is held at a constant temperature for just under 4 hours, and cooled to room temperature in almost 6 hours.

16.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

16.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the original thermal model, from a command line run:

\$ pan -b ht_bench_t

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file ht_bench_t.out should be similar to the following:

```
Heat treatment step #
                      6
Heat treatment time = 21600.000
Furnace temperature =
                       25.000000
                         149724.69
 inc =
             58 time =
                                                         0.32805E+01
                                       iter =
                                                1 \text{ eps} =
 inc =
             58 time =
                         149724.69
                                                2 eps =
                                                         0.12222E+00
                                       iter =
 inc =
             58 time =
                         149724.69
                                                3 eps =
                                                         0.23352E-02
                                       iter =
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_t_58.case
Writing record:
                           6, time:
                                       149724.687500000
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 58 = 00:00:00.38, since start = 00:00:23.64
Mesh preview volume =
                          9347.0000000000
Activated volume
                     =
                          9347.0000000000
Activated percentage =
                          100.00000000000
Finished writing file .\ ht_bench_t.case
Analysis completed
******
```

1 Warning **********

CPU wall for heat treatment = 00:00:02.00 CPU wall = 00:00:23.70 CPU total = 00:00:55.09

Peak RAM used for this process = 118,608 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ.

16.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the original mechanical analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b ht_bench_m

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file ht_bench_mechanical.out should be similar to the following:

```
Heat treatment step # 6
Heat treatment time = 21600.000
Furnace temperature = 25.00000
inc =
             60 \text{ time} = 149724.69
                                                  1 \text{ eps} = 0.20353E+07
                                         iter =
 inc =
             60 \text{ time} = 149724.69
                                        iter =
                                                  2 \text{ eps} = 0.39157 \text{E} - 08
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_m_60_f.case
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_m_60.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 60 = 00:00:01.39, since start = 00:01:06.94
CPU wall for heat treatment = 00:00:10.38
_____
 Substrate removal time increment
-----
 inc = 61 time = 199724.69
inc = 61 time = 199724.69
                                        iter = 1 eps = 0.82766E+05
                                                  2 \text{ eps} = 0.66979 \text{E} - 09
                                        iter =
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement = 1.530203E-01
Optimized RMS displacement = 1.433539E-01
Number of optimization iterations =
                                               216
Rotation matrix =
```

```
1.000000E+000 1.198705E-007 -7.517468E-008
 -1.198704E-007 1.000000E+000 1.899292E-006
  7.517491E-008 -1.899292E-006 1.000000E+000
Translation = -1.369874E-003 6.043220E-004 5.347694E-002
Finished writing file results ht_bench_m_61_f.case
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_m_61.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 61 = 00:00:00.86, since start = 00:01:07.80
_____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                         138
Mesh preview volume = 9347.0000000000
Activated volume = 9347.0000000000
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Finished writing file . \ ht_bench_m_f.case
Finished writing file .\ ht_bench_m.case
Analysis completed
******
  1 Warning
******
******
  1 Critical warning
*****
CPU wall for substrate removal = 00:00:01.13
CPU wall = 00:01:08.07
CPU total = 00:02:42.67
Peak RAM used for this process = 379,880 kB
```

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

Actual CPU times may differ. Now the restart simulations are performed. First the thermal model is rerun

\$ pan -b ht_bench_t_restart

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file ht_bench_t_restart.out should be similar to the following:

Heat treatment step # 5

```
Heat treatment time = 41600.000
Furnace temperature = 25.00000
 inc =
            57 \text{ time} = 169724.69
                                      iter = 1 \text{ eps} = 0.26334\text{E}+01
            57 time = 169724.69
 inc =
                                      iter =
                                               2 \text{ eps} = 0.42881\text{E}-01
 inc =
            57 \text{ time} = 169724.69
                                      iter = 3 \text{ eps} = 0.46977\text{E}-03
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_t_restart_57.case
Writing record:
                        5, time:
                                      169724.687500000
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 57 = 00:00:00.39, since start = 00:00:09.45
Mesh preview volume = 9347.0000000000
Activated volume
                    = 9347.0000000000
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Finished writing file .\ ht_bench_t_restart.case
Analysis completed
******
   1 Critical warning
*****
CPU wall for heat treatment = 00:00:01.83
CPU wall = 00:00:09.50
CPU total = 00:00:11.80
Peak RAM used for this process = 111,936 kB
```

```
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Actual CPU times will differ but note the restart Wall time is about 1/3 of the original thermal simulation Wall time. Now run the new heat treatment mechanical simulation.

\$ pan -b ht_bench_m_restart

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file ht_bench_mechanical.out should be similar to the following:

```
Heat treatment step # 5
Heat treatment time = 41600.000
Furnace temperature = 25.00000
                                        iter = 1 eps = 0.18048E+07
inc =
             59 \text{ time} = 169724.69
 inc =
             59 \text{ time} = 169724.69
                                        iter = 2 eps = 0.37577E+03
             59 time = 169724.69
                                        iter = 3 eps = 0.11876E+03
 inc =
 inc =
             59 \text{ time} = 169724.69
                                        iter = 4 eps = 0.21538E+00
                                                  5 \text{ eps} = 0.16486 \text{E} - 05
 inc =
             59 time =
                        169724.69
                                        iter =
Finished writing file results ht_bench_m_restart_59_f.case
```
```
Finished writing file results ht_bench_m_restart_59.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 59 = 00:00:01.69, since start = 00:00:18.16
CPU wall for heat treatment = 00:00:07.33
 Substrate removal time increment
_____
inc = 60 time = 219724.69 iter = 1 eps = 0.37665E+05
inc = 60 time = 219724.69 iter = 2 eps = 0.35710E-09
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement = 1.610442E-01
Optimized RMS displacement = 1.518741E-01
Number of optimization iterations =
                                       269
Rotation matrix =
  1.000000E+000 1.348451E-006 1.130048E-006
 -1.348452E-006 1.000000E+000 1.115458E-006
 -1.130047E-006 -1.115459E-006 1.000000E+000
Translation = -2.702220E-003 8.078157E-004 5.346423E-002
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_m_restart_60_f.case
Finished writing file results \ ht_bench_m_restart_60.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 60 = 00:00:00.55, since start = 00:00:18.72
_____
 Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                            36
Mesh preview volume = 9347.0000000000
Activated volume = 9347.0000000000
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Finished writing file .\ ht_bench_m_restart_f.case
Finished writing file .\ ht_bench_m_restart.case
Analysis completed
******
  1 Warning
*******
*******
  2 Critical warnings
*****
CPU wall for substrate removal = 00:00:00.61
```

```
CPU wall = 00:00:18.78
CPU total = 00:00:49.06
Peak RAM used for this process = 366,032 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Actual simulation times will differ, but again note the simulation time using the restarted input file is about 1/3 of the original simulation.

16.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in Paraview or Simulation Utility for Netfabb.

Figure 16.2 displays the model results of the original and new heat treatment cycle simulations. The simulation results of the original case show a reduction of 90%, as shown in the previous example 15. Using restart files, the new heat treatment cycle which has slower heat up and cool down periods and lower temperatures, the resulting peak stresses are about 1/3 of those of the original heat treatment cycle. This illustrates the usefulness of the restart capability to optimize heat treatment schedules using Netfabb Simulation .



(b) Heat treatment Von Mises stresses, new heat treatment

Figure 16.2: Von Mises stress results using the original and new heat treatment cycles

Example 17

Thermal modeling using advanced convection boundary conditions

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

17.1 Problem Description

The current example illustrates the use of advanced convection boundary conditions to create more accurate thermal models without necessitating the use of trapped powder elements. Four simulations comprise this example: a powder element case, a case using the global convection boundary, and two simulations using advanced convection boundary condition options. All simulations use the same geometry, Inconel 625 PRM file, build plate material properties, and mesh settings.

17.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

17.2.1 Powder element simulation

First, a simulation using powder elements should be run to which to compare the convection approximations.

From a command line run:

\$ pan -b pdr

The analysis progress is written on file pdr.out.

After the analysis completes, make note of the CPU wall time from the log file. This case takes 1 minute 35 seconds to complete. Actual CPU times will differ.

Now run the global convection model, which approximates losses into the powder and ambient environment as a uniform heat flux of $25 \text{ W/mm}^2 \text{ K}$.

\$ pan -b global

The log file returns a CPU time of 19 seconds for this simulation. CPU times may vary.

Next run the 1st advanced convection approximation model which applies regional convection values. These values are:

- Global Convection $CONV = 5 \text{ W/mm}^2 \text{ K}$. This low convection value is used to approximate losses from the sides of the part into poorly conductive powder.
- Powder Bed Top Convection *PBCT = 5 W/mm² K. *PBCT are summed with the *CONV value, creating a total convective loss at the top of the part of 10 W/mm² K. This accounts for additional convective losses due to natural convection and the forced convection caused by the gas flow over the deposition surface.
- Powder Bed Substrate convection $*PBSB = 150 \text{ W/mm}^2 \text{ K}$. This approximates losses from the build plate base into the build elevator. A high convection boundary is necessary to adequately model conduction heat losses as a heat flux.
- Powder Bed Substrate Sides convection $*PCSS = 125 \text{ W/mm}^2 \text{ K}$. This approximate losses from the build plate sides into the powder and walls of the powder bed machine. This is also an applied heat flux simulating conduction losses, but as there is a thin layer of powder between the solid build plate and the solid machine walls, the rate of heat transfer is less than for the build plate-build elevator surface.

```
$ pan -b regional
```

The regional log file shows a CPU time of 18 seconds. CPU times may vary.

Finally, run the 2nd advanced convection approximation model which uses the same values as the regional case, but has an additional control card *TCNV. This card assigns different convection values based upon the thickness of the component. These values override the values specified by *CONV. For this example the thick sections will be given a flux of 5 W/mm² K while the thin sections, which loose heat more rapidly, will have a heat flux of 20 W/mm² K.

\$ pan -b thickness

The thickness simulation also take 18 seconds to complete.

17.2.2 Thermal results

Figure 17.1 the thermal results at increment 20, where the thick base of the part is being modeled. Powder simulation results have had the powder elements removed for easier comparison with the non-powder cases.



Figure 17.1: Thermal results at increment 20

At this increment, the global heat flux approximation does not agree with the powder element analysis. However using the regional or the region plus by thickness convection approximations, the temperatures and gradients are nearly identical to the powder case. Now look at the thermal history at the end of the simulation, shown in Figure 17.2.



Figure 17.2: Thermal results at final increment

At this time step the global convection value does match with the powder case very well. However the regional case, while very accurate for the thick section, allows the top section of the part to get hotter than the powder case predicts. Using the thickness based convection corrects for this, bringing the temperatures very close to the powder case for both the thick and then sections, while taking roughly 1/3 as long to complete.

Example 18

Automatic Homogenization of STLs

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

18.1 Problem Description

Figures 18.1 shows the geometry used in the present STL homogenization example. The component is a vertical cylinder with 3 spokes jutting from the sides, cut at a 45 degree angle. Each of the 3 spokes have support structures. The 1st set of supports is a solid support with a 0.100 mm wall thickness. The 2nd support structure is a loosely meshed zero thickness STL. The 3rd support structure is a finely meshed zero thickness STL. In the center of the cylinder a latticed structure component is also built. All 3 supports and the latticed structure will be modeled using automatic homogenization via the *STLH card. The present simulation uses Inconel 625 material properties for the build and the build plate. Support structure failure is also considered at an arbitrary support structure failure of 1800 MPa, assigned by the *UTSR card.

STLH takes any arbitrary STL file and homogenizes the part, creating volumetric representation of the part's bounding box. To account for the differences in thermal and mechanical behavior between the shrink-wrapped volume and the original geometry, the material properties are scaled by the volume fraction. The volume fraction is simply the ratio of the original as printed volume to the homogenized volume. There are 4 options to assign the volume fraction:

- User specified volume fraction
- For closed, volumetric type supports and lattices, the volume of the component can be calculated directly from the STL file geometry
- Calculate the volume of the component by specifying a structure wall thickness
- Calculate the volume of the component based upon the laser beam diameter used in the source PRM file

This example uses all 4 options:

- Lattice Calculate volume from STL directly
- Solid support User specified volume fraction, set to 0.22 by the *STLM card
- Loose zero thickness support Calculate volume fraction from a specified wall thickness, set to 0.22 mm
- Fine zero thickness support Calculate volume fraction from laser beam diameter, which is 0.15 mm for this PRM file.



Figure 18.1: STL homogenization example geometry

The *STLH card is used to map the volume fraction choices to the STL files. It has additional control, the alpha radius, which specifies a spherical radius, which sets the maximum hole size that will be homogenized. For instance the fine zero thickness supports have an alpha radius of 5 mm, so that if any gap exists which can fit a sphere with a 5 mm radius across it, that gap will not be filled in during meshing.

Figure 18.2 shows the mesh and the structure type of the part. Observe the homogenization of the lattice and support structures.



Figure 18.2: STL homogenized mesh with structure type

18.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

18.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the model, from a command line run:

The analysis progress is written on file STLH_t.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail STLH_t.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file STLH_t.out should be similar to the following:

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 33 = 00:00:01.58, since start = 00:00:40.91
inc =
           34 time = 11921.886
                                   iter =
                                            1 \text{ eps} = 0.60531E+03
           34 time = 11921.886
inc =
                                   iter =
                                            2 \text{ eps} = 0.11601\text{E}-11
Finished writing file results \ STLH_t_34.case
Writing record:
                        2, time:
                                   11921.8855986984
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 34 = 00:00:00.67, since start = 00:00:41.58
Layer end
Mesh preview volume = 17181.8507391381
Activated volume = 16969.6503833795
Activated percentage = 98.7649738146357
Finished writing file .\ STLH_t.case
Analysis completed
*****
  2 Warnings
******
*********
  1 Critical warning
******
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:23.39
CPU wall = 00:00:41.63
CPU total = 00:01:46.81
Peak RAM used for this process = 223,880 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Actual CPU times will differ.

18.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the mechanical analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b STLH_m

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file STLH_m.out should be similar to the following:

```
Support structure removal time increment
_____
inc = 38 time = 211921.89 iter = 1 eps = 0.36883E+03
inc = 38 time = 211921.89 iter = 2 eps = 0.17038E-09
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement = 1.185526E-01
Optimized RMS displacement = 8.882039E-02
Number of optimization iterations =
                                       305
Rotation matrix =
  1.000000E+000 3.209669E-005 2.488942E-005
 -3.211007E-005 9.999999E-001 5.375605E-004
 -2.487216E-005 -5.375613E-004 9.999999E-001
Translation = 4.584022E-003 1.309558E-002 6.933183E-002
Finished writing file results \ STLH_m_38_f.case
Finished writing file results \ STLH_m_38.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 38 = 00:00:02.65, since start = 00:01:32.83
Layer end
_____
 Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                           85
Mesh preview volume = 17181.8507391381
Activated volume = 16969.6503833795
Activated percentage = 98.7649738146357
Finished writing file .\ STLH_m_f.case
Finished writing file .\ STLH_m.case
Analysis completed
*********
  36 Warnings
*******
******
  3 Critical warnings
*******
CPU wall for support removal = 00:00:02.70
CPU wall = 00:01:32.88
CPU total = 00:05:18.27
```

Peak RAM used for this process = 1,200,364 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

```
Actual CPU times will differ.
```

Each of the warnings note a support structure element failure.

18.3 Results

Returning the log files, make note of the volume fraction assigned and calculated during the homogenization and meshing process:

```
STL file start pre-processing
```

```
Homogenizing STL 2...
Reading Lattice.stl
Reading in native format...
Binary STL file
Bounding box:
2.172730E+00 <= x <= 2.777782E+01
2.172791E+00 <= y <= 2.777775E+01
5.929890E-01 <= z <= 1.943214E+01
Number of vertices = 222,600
Number of triangles = 74,200
Finished reading Lattice.stl
Equivalencing vertices
Number of unique vertices = 35,972
Finished vertex equivalencing
Original STL volume
                          =
                               149.531685569228
Seeding STL vertices with max length
                                       8.000000000000...
Number of seeded points = 35,972
Getting Delaunay triangulation for 35972 points...
Number of tetrahedrons = 248850
Wall time for tetrahedralization = 0.764357
Alpha radius =
                10.0000000000000
Filtering 2187 tetrahedrons...
Number of hull triangles = 2662
Finished writing binary STL file Lattice_concavity.stl
```

```
Homogenized STL volume =
                           8639.01118122283
Volume fraction = 1.7308889E-02
Homogenizing STL 3...
Reading Support1_Solid.stl
Reading in native format...
Binary STL file
Bounding box:
-9.002001E+00 <= x <= 1.000000E+00
 1.000000E+01 <= y <= 2.000000E+01
0.00000E+00 <= z <= 1.943000E+01
Number of vertices = 93,636
Number of triangles = 31,212
Finished reading Support1_Solid.stl
Equivalencing vertices
Number of unique vertices = 14,276
Finished vertex equivalencing
Seeding STL vertices with max length
                                      12.000000000000...
Number of seeded points = 14,332
Getting Delaunay triangulation for 14332 points...
Number of tetrahedrons = 84954
Wall time for tetrahedralization = 0.208862
Alpha radius =
                 15.000000000000
Filtering 604 tetrahedrons...
Number of hull triangles = 4648
Finished writing binary STL file Support1_Solid_concavity.stl
Volume fraction = 0.2200000
Homogenizing STL 4...
Reading Support2_OThickness_Loose.stl
Reading in native format...
Binary STL file
Bounding box:
1.743000E+01 <= x <= 3.065200E+01
2.484200E+01 <= y <= 3.813200E+01
0.000000E+00 <= z <= 1.940400E+01
Number of vertices = 17,937
```

```
Number of triangles = 5979
Finished reading Support2_OThickness_Loose.stl
Equivalencing vertices
Number of unique vertices = 5051
Finished vertex equivalencing
Calculating surface normals
Original STL surface area =
                            462.472214730474
Original STL volume
                              101.743887240704
                     =
Seeding STL vertices with max length
                                       4.0000000000000...
Number of seeded points = 5120
Getting Delaunay triangulation for 5120 points...
Number of tetrahedrons = 28056
Wall time for tetrahedralization = 0.0647566
Alpha radius =
                 5.00000000000000
Filtering 451 tetrahedrons...
Number of hull triangles = 2964
Finished writing binary STL file Support2_OThickness_Loose_concavity.stl
Homogenized STL volume =
                           924.134388621193
Volume fraction = 0.1100964
Homogenizing STL 5...
Reading Support3_OThickness_Fine.stl
Reading in native format...
Binary STL file
Bounding box:
1.731400E+01 <= x <= 3.065600E+01
-7.656000E+00 <= y <= 5.682000E+00
0.000000E+00 <= z <= 1.937400E+01
Number of vertices = 73,137
Number of triangles = 24,379
Finished reading Support3_OThickness_Fine.stl
Equivalencing vertices
Number of unique vertices = 19,241
Finished vertex equivalencing
Calculating surface normals
Original STL surface area = 1113.08966895905
```

EXAMPLE 18. AUTOMATIC HOMOGENIZATION OF STLS

Original STL volume = 166.963450343858 Seeding STL vertices with max length 4.000000000000... Number of seeded points = 19,409

Getting Delaunay triangulation for 19409 points...

Number of tetrahedrons = 114150 Wall time for tetrahedralization = 0.312326

```
Alpha radius = 5.000000000000
Filtering 2006 tetrahedrons...
Number of hull triangles = 7888
Finished writing binary STL file Support3_OThickness_Fine_concavity.stl
Homogenized STL volume = 933.467339324020
Volume fraction = 0.1788637
```

For each of the 4 homogenized geometries the solve calculates the original STL volume and the homogenized volume. For all but the solid support structure, the volume fraction is then calculated. For the solid support structure the volume fraction has been directly assigned and is reported as 0.22. The volume fractions are:

- Lattice 0.0173
- Solid support 0.22
- Loose zero thickness support 0.11
- Fine zero thickness support 0.178

Figure 18.3 displays the displacement results of the thermo-mechanical simulation at the end of the build process, after part cool down. The part has been warped by displacement with no additional magnification. The support structure to the fore of the picture is the Solid support, assigned a volume fraction of 0.22, to the left is the Loose zero thickness support, with a calculated volume fraction of 0.11, and to the right the fine zero thickness support, with the largest volume fraction, calculated to be 0.178. The Solid and Fine supports exhibit an equivalent trend and value of distortion, while the Loose lattice type support shows roughly 25% more distortion as the other supports.

Figure 18.4 gives the structure type results at the end of the simulation, which is most useful in this case for investigating support structure failures. The figure has been filtered to only show the support structure and failed support structure types. This shows that these disparate support types all exhibit similar levels of failure.



Displacement, Magnitude (mm)

Figure 18.3: STL homogenization example displacement results



Figure 18.4: STL homogenization example support failure results

Example 19

Custom Buildplate Geometry in Part Scale Powder Bed Modeling

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

19.1 Problem Description

An Inconel[®] 625 test geometry is constructed on top of an Inconel 625 cylindrical build plate, using generic laser powder bed fusion processing parameters. Both the part and build plate geometries are imported in the analysis through STL files and both are automatically meshed within Netfabb Simulation . The build plate STL is assigned using the *STLM card by setting the configuration id=2. The PRM number is not used so 1 is used as a dummy value. The Material is the same as the PRM file so the Material ID=2. No homogenization is used for the build plate so the Volume Fraction is set to 1. The *STLM card settings here then are:

*STLM 2, 1, 1, 1.0

Constant build plate heating at 120 °C., enabled by the *PBLR card, is used to mitigate distortion. The mesh and support type is shown in Figures 19.1.

As in previous examples, first a time incremental thermal analysis is performed to ascertain temperature history of the part through the manufacturing process and post-processing steps. A subsequent time incremental mechanical analysis is then completed to determine mechanical response.



Figure 19.1: Structure type results

19.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

19.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the model, from a command line run:

```
$ pan -b CanonOnCylinder1_thermal
```

The analysis progress is written on file CanonOnCylinder1_thermal.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail CanonOnCylinder1_thermal.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file should be similar to the following:

inc = 44 time = 14849.417 iter = 1 eps = 0.38052E+00 inc = 44 time = 14849.417 2 eps = 0.20398E-12 iter = Finished writing file results \ CanonOnCylinder1_thermal.case Finished writing file results \ CanonOnCylinder1_thermal_c.case Writing record: 2, time: 14849.4166881167 Increment end CPU wall for increment 44 = 00:00:00.94, since start = 00:01:04.85 Layer end

Mesh preview volume = 26925.5993719995

Actual CPU times will differ.

19.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the mechanical analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b CanonOnCylinder1_mechanical

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file CanonOnCylinder1_mech.out should be similar to the following:

```
Substrate removal time increment

inc = 46 time = 114849.42 iter = 1 eps = 0.54555E+04

inc = 46 time = 114849.42 iter = 2 eps = 0.20850E-08

Optimizing rigid body motion...

Initial RMS displacement = 2.573829E-01

Optimized RMS displacement = 1.310762E-01

Number of optimization iterations = 305

Rotation matrix =

9.999858E-01 -2.274892E-04 5.315012E-03

2.012156E-04 9.999878E-01 4.943296E-03

-5.316072E-03 -4.942157E-03 9.999737E-01

Translation = -6.290836E-02 -4.968993E-02 -3.091511E-01
```

Finished writing file results \ CanonOnCylinder1_mechanical_f.case

```
Finished writing file results \ CanonOnCylinder1_mechanical.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 46 = 00:00:02.87, since start = 00:02:13.07
Layer end
_____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                           91
Mesh preview volume = 26925.5993719995
Activated volume = 26925.5993719995
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
Signal tag 604A
*** CRITICAL WARNING: 1
Recoater Interference Detected at 1 layer group. Minimum clearance of
                                                              48.0257034301701 at h
Finished writing file .\ CanonOnCylinder1_mechanical_f.case
Finished writing file .\ CanonOnCylinder1_mechanical.case
Analysis completed
******
  2 Warnings
*******
*******
  1 Critical warning
*****
CPU wall for substrate removal = 00:00:02.93
CPU wall = 00:02:13.12
CPU total = 00:06:41.67
Peak RAM used for this process = 1,186,964 kB
END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation
```

Actual CPU times will differ.

19.3 Results

Figures 19.2 shows the computed final distortion from the mechanical analysis after part construction and cool down, and after part is removed from the buildplate.



(a) After part construction and cool down



(b) After the component is released from the buildplate

Figure 19.2: Distortion results [mm]

Example 20

6 Axis Directed Energy Deposition

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

20.1 Problem Description

This example simulates the 6 Axis Directed Energy Deposition (DED) construction of a two bead wide, 3 layer high Ti-6Al-4V component on a radial Ti-6Al-4V component. The radial component is shown in Figure 20.1 while the laser path is shown in Figure 20.2 upon a generic substrate. Note that 6 axis DED laser path (.lsr) files can be imported and viewed in the Simulation for Netfabb Software, however the simulations must still be performed at the command line. The radius of the melt pool is 2 mm, its power is 750 W, and the translation speed is 10 mm/s. The hatch spacing between the two beads is 2 mm. The ambient temperature during the process is 30.5°C. The substrate is constrained as simply supported. The thermal and mechanical response of this process is to be calculated using Netfabb Simulation with adaptive meshing. The resulting mesh is shown in Figure 20.3.

20.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

20.2.1 Thermal Analysis

Run the analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b 6axis_thermal

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file 6Axis_thermal.out should be similar to the following:

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 173 = 00:00:00.45, since start = 00:02:51.11
             174 time =
 inc =
                           1000.0000
                                           iter =
                                                    1 \text{ eps} =
                                                              0.75919E-02
 inc =
             174 time =
                           1000.0000
                                           iter =
                                                    2 eps =
                                                              0.45554E-02
                                                              0.65062E-06
             174 \text{ time} =
                           1000.0000
 inc =
                                           iter =
                                                    3 eps =
Finished writing file results \ 6Axis_thermal.case
                            91, time:
                                           1000.0000000000
Writing record:
Increment end
```

CPU wall for increment 174 = 00:00:00.49, since start = 00:02:51.61 Finished writing file .\6Axis_thermal.case

Analysis completed

CPU wall = 00:02:51.66 CPU total = 00:11:12.98

Peak RAM used for this process = 117,232 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

20.2.2 Mechanical Analysis

Run the analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b 6axis_mechanical

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file <code>6axis_mechanical.out</code> should be similar to the following:

548

```
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 169 = 00:00:01.34, since start = 00:04:09.18
inc =
        170 time =
                       1000.0000 iter = 1 eps = 0.24387E+03
           170 \text{ time} = 1000.0000
inc =
                                      iter =
                                               2 \text{ eps} = 0.19510\text{E}+03
 inc =
           170 \text{ time} = 1000.0000
                                               3 \text{ eps} = 0.64093 \text{E} - 09
                                      iter =
Finished writing file results \ 6Axis_mechanical.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 170 = 00:00:01.25, since start = 00:04:10.43
------
*COOL time increment
_____
HTOR is being set to zero***
inc = 171 time = 1100.0000
                                      iter =
                                               1 \text{ eps} = 0.64174\text{E}+03
inc =
           171 \text{ time} = 1100.0000
                                      iter =
                                               2 \text{ eps} = 0.51340\text{E}+03
           171 time = 1100.0000
inc =
                                      iter =
                                               3 \text{ eps} = 0.64679 \text{E} - 09
Finished writing file results 6Axis_mechanical.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 171 = 00:00:01.35, since start = 00:04:11.79
_____
```

Total number of equilibrium iterations:

Finished writing file .\ 6Axis_mechanical.case

Analysis completed

CPU wall for cooldown = 00:00:01.48 CPU wall = 00:04:11.92 CPU total = 00:16:27.36

Peak RAM used for this process = 495,720 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation



(a)

Figure 20.2: 6 Axis DED example path



Figure 20.3: 6 axis DED mesh

20.3 Results

The results can be viewed in Simulation Utility for Netfabb or Paraview by importing the .case files. Thermal results during deposition are shown at two different increments in Figure 20.4. Post process distortion and a sample stress result is shown in Figure 20.5.



(b) Increment 150

Figure 20.4: Temperature results (° C) at two sample increments.



(b) Post process XX direction Cauchy stresses, warped 1X

Figure 20.5: Sample post process mechanical results

Example 21

Directed Energy Deposition Compensation

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

21.1 Problem Description

This example guides the user through the compensation workflow for Directed Energy Deposition (DED) processes. First, the simulation of a 39 layer high single bead Ti-6Al-4V component is completed. The component is shown in Figure 21.1 while the simulation path is depicted in Figure 21.2. The substrate is constrained as simply supported. The thermal and mechanical response of this process is to be calculated using Netfabb Simulation with adaptive meshing. The resulting mesh is shown in Figure 21.3. After the simulation is completed, the distort_stl tool is used to produced the compensated STL file.

21.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

21.2.1 Thermal Analysis

Run the analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b DEDComp_thermal

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file DEDComp_thermal.out should be similar to the following:



Figure 21.1: DED Compensation example geometry

CPU wall = 00:02:54.01 CPU total = 01:16:45.82

Peak RAM used for this process = 119,280 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

21.2.2 Mechanical Analysis

Run the analysis from the command line:

\$ pan -b DEDCOMP_mechanical

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file DEDComp_mechanical.out should be similar to the following:

Increment end CPU wall for increment 1166 = 00:00:00.17, since start = 00:05:33.47 inc = 1167 time = 3897.0000 iter = 1 eps = 0.10971E-10



Figure 21.2: DED Compensation example path

```
Finished writing file results . DEDComp_mechanical_1167.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 1167 = 00:00:00.16, since start = 00:05:33.63
Layer end
  _____
*COOL time increment
_____
HTOR is being set to zero***
inc =
      1168 time = 3947.0000
                                    iter = 1 eps = 0.12895E+03
inc =
        1168 time = 3947.0000
                                    iter = 2 eps = 0.10316E+03
                       3947.0000
                                            3 \text{ eps} = 0.11167 \text{E} - 10
inc =
         1168 time =
                                    iter =
Finished writing file results DEDComp_mechanical_1168.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 1168 = 00:00:00.35, since start = 00:05:33.98
Layer end
                     _____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                             3910
Finished writing file . DEDComp_mechanical.case
```

Analysis completed



Figure 21.3: DED Compensation Example mesh

Peak RAM used for this process = 215,556 kB

END Autodesk Netfabb Local Simulation

21.3 Results and STL Compensation

The results can be viewed in Simulation Utility for Netfabb or Paraview by importing the .case files. The post process distortion is shown in Figure 21.4.

In order to create a compensated STL from the DED results, the input file for distort_stl has the *STLF card added to it. The argument for *STLF points at the nominal geometry STL for the DED build.

Execute the compensation from the command line:

\$ distort_stl DEDCompWarp-1.in



Figure 21.4: DED Compensation Distortion Results

The resulting compensated STL is shown in Figure 21.5

From this compensated geometry one may create a new laser path which when printed will reduce distortion in this part.


Figure 21.5: Compensated Geometry from a DED Simulation

Example 22

Symmetry Boundary Conditions

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

22.1 Problem Description

In this example Symmetry boundary conditions are applied to the thermo-mechanical simulation of a cobalt chrome cylinder. Figure 22.3 shows the original and quarter-symmetric model.

Symmetry boundary conditions are applied to the X and Y faces at the origin using the *SYMM card.



Figure 22.1: Original Cylinder Geometry



Figure 22.2: Quarter Symmetric Cylinder

Figure 22.3: Original and segmented cylinder geometries.

22.2 Running Netfabb Simulation

22.2.1 Thermal Analysis

To run the model, from a command line run:

```
$ pan -b symmetry_thermal
```

The **-b** option runs the solver in background mode, which automatically overwrites any previous results, and directs output to a an output file of the format **input-file-name.out**.

The analysis progress is written on file symmetry_thermal.out. To check progress in a linux environment run:

\$ tail symmetry_thermal.out

To check progress in a windows command line environment run:

\$ type symmetry_thermal.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file symmetry_thermal.out should be similar to the following:

```
CPU wall for increment 25 = 00:00:00.19, since start = 00:00:13.90
inc =
            26 time =
                        7883.1133
                                      iter =
                                               1 \text{ eps} = 0.26101\text{E}+03
            26 time = 7883.1133
                                               2 \text{ eps} = 0.51116\text{E}-12
inc =
                                      iter =
Finished writing file results \ Symm_thermal.case
Finished writing file results \ Symm_thermal_c.case
Writing record:
                          2, time: 7883.11329663005
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 26 = 00:00:00.10, since start = 00:00:14.01
Layer end
Mesh preview volume =
                         1574.59564914952
Activated volume
                         1574.59564914952
                    =
Activated percentage =
                         100.00000000000
Finished writing file .\ Symm_thermal.case
Finished writing file .\ Symm_thermal_c.case
Analysis completed
*****
   1 Warning
******
CPU wall for printing = 00:00:02.78
CPU wall = 00:00:14.07
CPU total = 00:01:59.00
```

END Autodesk AM Process Simulation

Actual CPU times will differ from system to system.

22.2.2 Quasi-Static Mechanical Analysis

Run the analysis from the command line:

```
$ pan -b symmetry_mechanical
```

The analysis progress is written on file symmetry_mechanical.out. To check progress run:

\$ tail symmetry_mechanical.out

or in Windows:

\$ type symmetry_mechanical.out

After the analysis completes, the last few lines of the output file symmetry_mechanical.out should be similar to the following:

```
-----
 Substrate removal time increment
-----
inc = 28 time = 107883.11 iter = 1 eps = 0.16852E+05
inc = 28 time = 107883.11 iter = 2 eps = 0.91434E-10
Optimizing rigid body motion...
Initial RMS displacement = 1.133143E-01
Optimized RMS displacement = 5.960061E-02
Number of optimization iterations =
                                         220
Rotation matrix =
  9.999983E-001 4.942147E-005 -1.823844E-003
 -5.272707E-005 9.999984E-001 -1.812435E-003
  1.823752E-003
                 1.812528E-003 9.999967E-001
Translation = 2.184435E-002
                                2.116116E-002 9.216600E-002
Finished writing file results \ Symm_mechanical_f.case
Finished writing file results \ Symm_mechanical.case
Increment end
CPU wall for increment 28 = 00:00:00.30, since start = 00:00:19.58
Layer end
 _____
Total number of equilibrium iterations:
                                               57
Mesh preview volume = 1574.59564914952
Activated volume = 1574.59564914952
Activated percentage = 100.0000000000
```

```
Signal tag 69AF
*** CRITICAL WARNING: 1
Code 1041
Recoater interference detected at one layer group. Minimum clearance of 71.265 percent at heigh
Finished writing file .\ Symm_mechanical_f.case
Finished writing file .\ Symm_mechanical.case
Analysis completed
*******
  2 Warnings
*****
******
  1 Critical warning
******
CPU wall for substrate removal = 00:00:00.38
CPU wall = 00:00:19.66
CPU total = 00:04:32.71
Peak RAM used for this process = 189,488 kB
END Autodesk AM Process Simulation
Actual CPU times will differ.
```

22.3 Results

Results may be imported and viewed in Paraview or the Simulation Utility for Netfabb. Figures ?? shows the computed final distortion after substrate release.

Observe the 0 displacement at the origin, showing the effect of the symmetry conditions.



Figure 22.4: Final distortion.

Example 23

Automatic Calibration of PRM Files

23.1 Problem Description

All of the files required to execute this example are in the Local Simulation Example Files.zip which can be downloaded from the Tutorials Download Page.

This example guides users through the process of automatically calibrating a PRM file based upon an experimental print and an existing PRM file. Cases where this may be useful:

- To further increase the accuracy of a generic or custom PRM file
- Generating PRMs based upon generic PRM files using differing process parameters
- To generate a PRM for a similar but not yet included material set based upon an existing material.

Cases where PRM Calibration will not be useful:

- Generating a material for a dissimilar material set from any of the established PRM files, e.g. MS1, Copper, Polymers
- Generating PRMs for non-supported processes like FDM or DED
- Generating PRMs for differing hatch patterns, particularly non-supported options like unidirectional or bidirectional scanning.

For this tutorial we will focus on the primary use case, to increase the accuracy of the generic Inconel 625 PRM file based upon an assumed experimental measurement.

23.2 Experimental Build and Measurement

The 1st step of the calibration process is to manufacture the test part using the material and processing conditions for which a PRM file is desired. Then the peak distortion needs to be measured. This can be achieved using basic metrology equipment such as calibres or a micrometer.

To perform the measurement, use the calipers to determine the diameter at the 'waist' of the cylinder where the peak displacement occurs. Subtract from the manufactured diameter the nominal width of the test part to get the distortion of the printed part (12.7mm):

Measured Distortion = Measured Diameter - Nominal Diamete



Figure 23.1: Experimental Model and Measurement Location

For this example assume the manufactured part is 12.2 mm at the narrowest point:

Measured Distortion = 12.38 mm - 12.7 mm = -0.32 mV

Note: It is critical to ensure the sign when transferring this information to the JSON file read by the calibration tool.

23.3 Input Files

To run a Calibration the following files are needed:

- JSON file: This is where the measurement calculated above is entered, along with the measuring device's error, and points at the thermal and input files.
- Base PRM: This is the starting PRM file. For this example we will be using Inconel625_generic.PRM
- Thermal and Mechanical input files:

*PBPF needs to point at the base PRM file.

*PBPA = 4, if this is set to any other value it will be overridden at execution.

*PBLR = 0, if this is set to any other value it will be overridden at execution.

Set Number of Laser, Dwell Time multiplier, thermal and mechanical boundary conditions to match the experimental set up.

The auto-calibration process is based upon measurements taken before heat treatment and while the part is still on the plate, so leave options related to those post processing conditions out of the input files.

Open the calibration.json file. It will look like this:

```
{
"Calibration":
{
"Thermal input": "t1a.in",
"Mechanical input": "m1a.in",
"Measurement": -0.32,
"Relative error": 5.e-2
}
}
```

Observe each input file name is specified individually, the measurement has been entered as well as the Relative Error of the calipers. A larger relative error than is typical is used for this example to speed up convergence.

Looking inside the input files you will note that there is no *STLF file. PRM calibration uses an internal version of the flexitube.stl when executed.

23.4 Executing the PRM Calibration

Warning: This simulation is lengthy and will take approximately 3 hours on a 28 core machine.

To run the calibration process, from a command line run: Windows:

prm_gen /c calibration.json > calibration.out

Linux and MacOS

prm_gen -c calibration.json > calibration.out

Users can check the progress of the simulation by viewing the log file, which is recorded to the calibration.out file.

23.5 Results

This example requires 4 simulations to produce a PRM file that matches the measurement, including simulating using the base Inconel625_generic.prm

Search or scroll through the calibration.out file for the calibration block, which starts with "Probing location." There are 4 blocks. The "FEA disp." line indicates what the measured location displacement was. These are:

Nominal PRM = -0.48Calibration 1 = -0.27Calibration 2 = -0.349Calibration 3 = -0.31

This gets within the relative error of the measured distortion. The final calibrated PRM file is Inconel625_generic_calibrated.prm which can be used for future simulations for this material and processing parameters.

